1300. E. 35.

TRAVELS

THROUGH

SEVERAL PROVINCES

OF

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, &c.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, &c.

BY

RICHARD CROKER, Esq.

CAPTAIN IN THE LATE 99th REGIMENT OF FOOT.

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1799.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Moſt Noble

JOHN JAMES HAMILTON,

Marquis of ABERCORN in Great Britain, Earl and Baron of ABERCORN and Baron of PAISLEY in Scotland; alſo Viſcount and Baron STRABANE in Ireland, and Baron MOUNTCASTLE and KILPATRICK and Baronet of the ſame Kingdom; and Viſcount HAMILTON in England.

MY LORD,

IT may ſeem an extraordinary circumſtance, that this book, pretending to little more than the amuſement of an hour, ſhould bear the honor of your Lordſhip's name:

It

it is therefore neceſſary to ſay, that the motives, and not the merits, of the publication were the objects of your Lordſhip's patronage. Theſe will be found not unworthy the acknowledged liberality of your Lordſhip's character.

I am, with the utmoſt gratitude and reſpect,

Your Lordſhip's,

Moſt faithful,

and obliged Servant,

R. C.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the courſe of a varied life, now advanced, no circumſtance has happened to the Writer of theſe ſheets more extraordinary than that he ſhould have become the author of a Book.

The incitements to this undertaking were forcible and urgent; and the Author has conſidered this publication, in ſome reſpects, a duty.

It may be neceſſary to add, in extenuation of their faults, that theſe Letters were prepared for the preſs in the intervals of leiſure which an office

office of conſiderable buſineſs has afforded.

If this Book anſwers the purpoſes of its publication, the author is ſenſible that it muſt be attributed to the liberal kindneſs of his friends, to whom he feels himſelf in the higheſt degree obliged.

Cuſtom-houſe, London,
Nov. 12, 1798.

TRAVELS

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SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, &c.

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR, Hilsea Barracks, July 5, 1780.

I AM flattered and obliged by the desire you express of my correspondence during my absence from England, and consider it an additional proof of the friendship with which you have long been pleased to honor me.

Much entertainment it probably will not afford you; a ſummer voyage to a Southern climate promiſes little variety of adventure. In truth, it may be conſidered as by no means the intereſt of the voyager, that his letters ſhould produce extraordinary gratification. To adopt the phraſeology of the log-book, flattering breezes and pleaſant weather, though the friendly means of conveying him to the deſired port, afford little amuſement by the recital; whilſt ſtrong gales, with heavy ſqualls, lightning, and thunder, with their dreadful conſequences at ſea, produce a ſcene of confuſion and diſtreſs, that affords to the pen of Deſcription the means of gratifying the curioſity and intereſting the feelings of the reader. Theſe

means of gratification are moſt dearly purchaſed by the anxiety and ſenſe of danger to which the miſerable paſſenger is expoſed. To-morrow we embark; but are firſt to be reviewed by general Monkton.

Our appearance, according to the times, will not diſcredit us. We have no reaſon to feel concern at our departure from Hilſea-Barracks: theſe are, through ſituation, unhealthy, without comfort or convenience; the vicinity of Portſmouth renders it difficult to procure the neceſſary articles of living. I have not experienced in England ſo diſagreeable a ſituation.

I feel an indifference as to the chance of climate, and future events,

which may, perhaps, be juſtly conſidered the ſoldier's beſt ſecurity; but this indifference is as to myſelf only.

The welfare of my family and friends, that I leave behind, is the object of my moſt anxious concern. That they may long enjoy every bleſſing is the moſt fervent wiſh of,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR, Ship Morant, St. Helen's, July 7, 1780.

THE regiment yeſterday embarked from Portſmouth, as the Newſpapers ſay, in high ſpirits, after having been inſpected, and approved, by the Reviewing General. The Lieutenant Colonel's company, and mine, are on board The Morant, a large Jamaica Merchant Ship.

By the generous politeneſs of the Committee of Jamaica Merchants, and the great attention of Mr Allen, their Secretary, all kinds of proviſions and liquors have been laid-in for the officers in great abundance; ſo that,

in the military phraſe, we have nothing to do but to hang up our hats.

Our deſtination is for Jamaica: the regiment has been raiſed for the immediate ſervice and defence of that Iſland, at a very great expence to the planters and merchants, which, I hope, and doubt not, will be amply repaid by the attachment and ſervices of the corps.

The ſhip is roomy; neither officers nor privates are crowded, and we have a proſpect of a healthy and pleaſant voyage. We are now buſied in forming regulations to preſerve health and good order among our people during the voyage. Theſe are at all times neceſſary, but more eſpecially

eſpecially ſo when we are deſtined for Southern climates: the influence of theſe regions, baneful to the natives of Europe, too often baffles all precautions, and thins the ranks by diſeaſe and death; but, when theſe are neglected, ſafety is hopeleſs.

Our departure is now to be wiſhed, and there is reaſon to believe, that it will not long be delayed.

I have this moment received notice, that it will be neceſſary for me to proceed to London to-morrow.—This is an unpleaſant occurrence.—My mind was made up to my ſituation, and I had transferred my views and proſpects to the other ſide of the Atlantic. But I muſt ſubmit; my

ſtay, I truſt, will be ſhort; at my return to the ſhip you ſhall hear from me: in the mean time, believe me, moſt faithfully,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-

LETTER III.

DEAR SIR, Ship Morant, British Channel, July 27, 1780.

I RETURNED to The Morant from my London excurſion on the thirteenth. Since that time nothing has happened worth your notice. What time could be ſpared from the neceſſary attention to duty has been ſpent in the little amuſements within our reach. We have viſited the Iſle of Wight more than once; but always returned to the ſhip in the evening. Thus have paſſed our days, until this morning, when the firing of a gun, and the looſened fore-top-ſail of the Commodore's ſhip, announced

nounced our ſpeedy departure: in a moment every thing was buſtle and exertion. At ſeven o'clock we were under ſail, with a very large fleet, conſiſting of five Eaſt India ſhips, the trade for the Mediterranean, ordnance ſtore-ſhips, and tranſports with troops for the Weſt India iſlands, under convoy of The Buffalo and Inflexible men of war; Thetis, Southampton, and Alarm, frigates.

The morning has been remarkably fine. The appearance of an hundred and fifty ſail of ſhips getting under weigh, the modulated voices of the ſeamen, as they laboured at the windleſs—the caſual ſight of our friends on board other ſhips, as they paſſed—the beauty of the land proſpects

ſpects around us, all conſpired to render this ſcene various and amuſing beyond deſcription.

A gentleman and lady, with a female attendant, came on board this morning, as paſſengers to Jamaica. Their appearance and manners promiſe an agreeable addition to our party.

29th, off Plymouth.

WE have had a moſt pleaſant paſſage down Channel. The ſea has been ſo ſmooth that our fair paſſengers have not yet experienced the leaſt inconvenience. Yeſterday morning the Commodore made the Southapmton's ſignal to chaſe a ſmall ſchooner, which proved

proved to be a French privateer. She attempted to eſcape by running in ſhore near Dungeneſs, when a ſhot from the frigate ſunk her; the people were ſaved. The fleet came-to off this port at noon; and The Ramillies, Capt. Moutray, who commands the fleet, has juſt now joined us. The ſignal is made again to make ſail. An opportunity offers of ſending this letter on ſhore, which, if delayed a minute, will be loſt. Adieu.

R. C.

LET-

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR, Ship Morant, at Sea, Auguſt 4, 1780.

WE have had conſtant fine weather, and favourable winds, ſo that it has been ſcarcely neceſſary to alter a ſail. The Eaſt India ſhips ſail ſo heavily, that the whole fleet have been obliged to bring-to, and wait for them ſome hours every night. This has conſiderably retarded the progreſs of our voyage. The proviſion for the ſoldiers is in general tolerably good; but the beer, that was taken on board at Portſmouth, is execrable—this is more unfortunate, as we find that, the ſhip being partly laden on account of the merchants, the beer and water to-

gether

gether are but ſufficient; and, if the beer was ſtarted, as has been propoſed, and any circumſtances ſhould happen to prevent our putting into Madeira, we ſhall be in danger of wanting water. This unlucky matter has given us ſerious concern for the lives and health of our people. Articles of proviſion in a bad ſtate are the ſeeds of thoſe diſeaſes, by which our ſeamen, but oftner our ſoldiers, periſh. The avarice of the contractor deſtroys by ten thouſands; the ſword and climate, by thouſands only.

The ſour crout, ſent on board for the preſervation of the health of the ſoldier, is ſo extremely putrid, that we are under the neceſſity of throwing

ing it overboard on the caſk being opened. Every means of ſecuring cleanlineſs and free air are adopted. The ſoldiers are daily exerciſed with the ſhip's guns. This, it is to be hoped, will keep the ſcurvy at a diſtance.—Nothing is ſo inimical to health in long voyages and Southern climates, as the total inactivity of mind and body, into which the landſman, of neceſſity, falls, for want of employ. The heat enervates him, and every day the malady increaſes, until it becomes the ſource of that dreadful diſeaſe, the Sea-ſcurvy, which puts on various appearances, and is terrible in all. In the voyage of Lord Anſon, nearly the whole of the landſmen, and a great proportion of ſeamen, periſhed by this diſorder. A ſtrong

proof

proof, that the ſeat of this diſeaſe is the mind, is the ſuddenneſs of the cure, as circumſtances change: on entering a harbour, or even approaching the land, an almoſt inſtantaneous recovery takes place; and what is effected by the powers of the imagination is aſcribed to the virtues of a handful of herbs, or the ſalubrity of the land-air. As the diſeaſe of the mind is cured, the body inſtantly ſhews the effects.

The Aſiatick, on the contrary, who, in the degree of heat natural to him, exerts activity unknown to the inhabitants of a Northern climate, on approaching our wintery world, feels every nerve frozen, his blood thickens, his faculties become torpid—

torpid—he reſigns himſelf to deſpair —and dies without the appearance or ſymptoms of diſeaſe.

Providence ſeems to have formed every man and animal with a conſtitution and diſpoſition adapted to the climate in which he was deſtined to dwell—Man only counteracts the deſigns of his Creator.

We were yeſterday witneſs to the melancholy ſolemnity of the funeral of the Captain of The Inflexible man of war—minute guns were fired from all the ſhips of war and thoſe in the ſervice of government, and every naval and military honor paid.

We fell-in with the Britiſh Channel Fleet this day at noon—and proceed under their protection—the preſence of ſo fine a Fleet gives ſecurity and ſpirits to every one. We cannot expect that they will long remain with us—and as little notice is given of ſeparation, I ſhall prepare my letter for their conveyance, by ſubſcribing myſelf,

Your moſt affectionate Friend,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER V.

DEAR SIR, On Board the Burgogne French Man of War, at Sea, Auguſt 12, 1780.

IF inſtances of the *varium et mutabile* attached to the military life were wanting, this that I now announce to you might be conſidered as no common circumſtance. When I wrote my laſt letter we were under the protection of the grand Britiſh Fleet, proceeding with favorable winds towards our deſired port, and had reaſon to hope that we were in little danger from the enemy. At the time of writing this, we are priſoners on board a French man of war, our future fate and fortune moſt uncertain; but I will ſet down

in order the circumſtances of this ſudden change, which will probably bring more variety into my Narrative, than I had either promiſed or intended.

The next day after the date of my laſt letter the Britiſh Fleet left us to purſue our way; taking with them The Inflexible and Buffalo men of war, and Alarm frigate, part of our convoy. On the 7th we met with the Liſbon Fleet, bound to England, under the convoy of Commodore Johnſtone; the eighth was ſpent quietly as uſual; our new colours, being planted on the quarter-deck, made a gay appearance; about nine in the evening we brought-to for the heavy-ſailing ſhips to come up—and

at one in the morning, by ſignal from the commodore, made ſail and proceeded—at day-break one of the ſervants came into the cabin, and reported that there were many ſhips in ſight, that made ſignals by rockets and fires.

I immediately ſuſpected the worſt, and was ſoon on deck—our people got under arms, and prepared for defence; but, as the day advanced, reſiſtance was found to be vain, as we were ſurrounded by the combined Fleet of France and Spain.

At this time I was particularly ſtruck with the maſterly and gallant manner, in which The Ramillies effected her retreat—ſhe appeared to

be ſurrounded by the ſhips of the enemy, on which, as ſhe paſſed them, ſhe kept up a continual fire from both ſides of the ſhip. It was now good day-light, when we found ourſelves within gun-ſhot of two of the enemy's line of battle ſhips. The maſter of our veſſel earneſtly deſired us to make no reſiſtance, and to ſtrike immediately; which we certainly ſhould have had no objection to do, as there appeared no poſſibility of eſcape, but we had not as yet diſpoſed of the colours of his Majeſty's Regiment—as ſoon as this was effected, we ſurrendered. By this time the ſhip had been ſtruck by ſeveral ſhot; by one of which, a Serjeant's wife of the regiment was unfortunately killed, whilſt ſhe lay in her hammock;

hammock; a boat ſoon came to take poſſeſſion from The Burgogne, a French ſeventy-four gun ſhip, to which we had ſtruck, and we had the mortification to ſee a French ſentry poſted at the door of the cabin. The Lieutenant Colonel was taken on board The Burgogne, and I had but a ſhort time to conſider what was beſt to be done. My firſt want was that of a ſervant, which was ſoon ſupplied by the recommendation of one of my Serjeants—to this ſervant I delivered the whole of my baggage.

I then dreſſed myſelf in a new ſuit of regimentals, determined to be introduced to my chance acquaintance with the beſt advantage.

Our lady paſſenger and her fair attendant gave themſelves up to tears and affliction. The beſt was to be hoped for them. I introduced them to the French officer, who commanded the ſhip—he was civil, though not of the moſt prepoſſeſſing appearance or manners—he promiſed, that every poſſible attention ſhould be paid to their ſafety and convenience; which promiſe, I have the pleaſure to hear, has been faithfully performed.

It was now ten o'clock; much had been done in the courſe of a ſhort time. When notice was given me that my company was expected on board the man of war, I was ſoon along-ſide, and, aſcending the ſhip's ſide,

ſide, met with an unexpected acquaintance—a man in the uniform of a French marine, on ſeeing me, exclaimed, *Oh, mon Captaine!*—I inſtantly recognized him—and his ſtory is this.

Some years ſince, when I was on the recruiting ſervice in Cornwall, three ſtout Frenchmen landed at Falmouth from a Liſbon Packet.

Thoſe men were of that order, which is known in the army by the name of *Grand Tour Men.* This deſcription of people exiſts only in the reſtleſs and volatile genius of the French nation. A Grand Tour Man paſſes through the ſervices of the different Princes of Europe, enliſting and deſerting as convenience or whim

whim directs. Thoſe men were at the end of their reſources, and obliged to beg—the war with France not having at that time commenced, a gentleman obſerved to me, that, as far as figure went, they would not be bad recruits—after having conſulted Colonel Townſend on the ſubject, I received them by his direction. Of theſe Mr. Piſtoneau, the gentleman to whom I introduce you, was one—he marched with me to Chatham Barracks, and was ſoon after drafted into the fifty-eighth regiment at Gibraltar. His manners and conduct were exemplary, whilſt he was under my command. Gibraltar was too confined a field for the genius of Mr. Piſtoneau; having ſtaid there ſome time, he dreſſed himſelf

himſelf in the clothes of an officer, made free with his horſe, and preſented himſelf in the Spaniſh camp at St. Roque; here he was not long eaſy, again changed his ſituation, and became a marine on board the Burgogne.

I was introduced by Lieutenant Colonel B. to Monſieur le Brigadier Marin, the Captain of the ſhip; who received me with great politeneſs. My ſword was offered and returned with the old obſervation on the fortune of war—and, in the preſent melioration of European warfare, the bitterneſs of captivity ſeemed to be nearly paſt. We ſat down to an early dinner, at a table covered with a profuſion of meat of various kinds.

A large

A large company were preſent, conſiſting of all the officers of the ſhip, the Britiſh Military, and the chaplain, a friar, who, in his appearance, is nearer to my idea of Father Paul in the Duenna, than any of his repreſentatives that I have ſeen.

But I cannot reſiſt the inclination that I feel to introduce to you Monſieur le Brigadier Marin—conceive the figure of a round old man of five feet, dreſſed in a blue camblet coat, &c. &c. the whole of which would really be a bad bargain to a Jew at half a crown—his wig was of that order denominated, in an Engliſh country town, *a cut wig*; his hat and ſhoes were from age and circumſtances of a whitiſh colour, and

and his linen marvelouſly black—ſuch were the dreſs and appearance of Monſieur le Brigadier—and his officers were little better dreſſed than himſelf. In our ſituation, after having ſecured a dinner, it was prudent to endeavour to provide a bed, and in the crowded ſtate of the ſhip this did not ſeem to be an eaſy acquiſition. We hoped, and rather expected, that the politeneſs of the officers of the Ship would have induced them to afford us cabins; but the evening approaching, and no ſymptom of that ſort having appeared, it became neceſſary to come to an explanation. This we have done by the means of a Swiſs Gentleman, a lieutenant of our regiment, who has been of great uſe to us as an interpreter—the

anſwer

anſwer we received was, that there was an apartment for all the Engliſh; as theſe conſiſted of maſters and mates of Ships, and paſſengers of various deſcriptions, the aſſortment pleaſed us not.

After ſome negotiation, permiſſion was granted, with no very good grace, to the Lieutenant Colonel and myſelf, to place mattraſſes on a bench in the grand chamber or upper cabin—there we have been for two nights without a poſſibility of taking reſt, from the never-ceaſing converſation of the French officers—fortunately on the evening of the tenth my ſervant came on board with my baggage—or my ſituation would have been more unpleaſant than it is.

Notice

Notice is this moment ſent, that the prizes are about to ſeparate from the Fleet, and that an opportunity preſents of ſending letters.

Remember your Friend in captivity, and believe me ſincerely,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR, Burgogne, at Sea, August 17, 1780.

I SHALL continue to write as circumſtances happen, although there is at preſent no great probability of my letters reaching you ſoon. Of our unfortunate fleet, conſiſting of about ſeventy ſail, one ſhip, the Britiſh Queen, from London to Jamaica, eſcaped, with ſome few veſſels of leſſer deſcription; never ſurely was ſurpriſe ſo complete: it can only be accounted for, by the Commodore's reliance on the intelligence he had received, that the Combined Fleets were in the harbour of Cadiz. On the

the firſt day of Auguſt: the intelligence was true, but they ſailed on the ſecond day of that month.

To-day we have heard with pleaſure the account, that El Rayo, a Spaniſh eighty-gun ſhip, conſidered an excellent ſailer, and two French line of battle ſhips, that were detached in purſuit of the men of war of our convoy, have returned without ſucceſs. The officers of this ſhip tell us, that the Spaniſh ſhip came near the Ramillies; but, on her ſhortening ſail and preparing to engage, the Spaniard left her. The French loſe no opportunity of depreciating the conduct and character of their ally.

The combined fleets now conſiſt of thirty-two ſail of the line, and ſeveral frigates; of theſe two are Spaniſh three-deckers, one of which, the Santiſſima Trinidada, mounts one hundred and thirty guns, and is the largeſt ſhip in Europe.

The Burgogne was of the fleet that laſt year alarmed us in the Britiſh Channel. We are aſſured, that this ſhip loſt four hundred men by ſickneſs during that cruize, and that the other ſhips of the fleet were in no better condition.

The combined fleets ſail in three diviſions, and would not be an unpleaſant ſpectacle, were we in other circumſtances.—Take now the account

count of our manner of living on board.

We get up rather early, and meet at breakfaſt about eight—this conſiſts of tea and coffee; bread and butter; ſometimes one of the officers of the ſhip takes a cup of tea with us, but this happens rarely. Breakfaſt is to a Frenchman a ſolitary meal—he takes his bread and grapes, ſometimes wine, ſtrolling about—at eleven, by the ſound of a ſmall bell, we deſcend to the *grand chambre*, or lower cabin, where is provided a great variety of meats, of which large but not ſelect pieces of roaſted beef always make a part. All, except the Britiſh officers, drink a ſpecies of Spaniſh wine, called Benecarlo, well known in England,

as it is uſually brought there for the purpoſe of brewing Port. For us the Brigadier produces ſome bottles of *Vin de Bourdeaux*, and alſo a very pleaſant white wine of Provence, the produce of a vineyard on his own eſtate.

As no wine is taken after dinner, and we generally riſe before the meat is removed, it is neceſſary to make good uſe of our time. Coffee is immediately ſerved in the *chambre de conſeil*, and ſometimes *liqueurs*. Parties are then formed and whiſt, picquet, backgamon, and other games, fill up the time until five, when the bell again ſummons, and another meal, equal in quantity and variety to the former, ſucceeds. After this, nothing

nothing is left but walking the deck, or converſation, as the lights which are produced admit not of reading or writing—they conſiſt of two lamps only in the *grand chambre*, ſo that moſt of us are inclined to retire early.

I have, with ſome difficulty, carried two points of ſome conſequence to my convenience.

The firſt related to my ſervant, whom I found on the deck, the morning after he had been brought on board, in moſt woeful plight; his bed had been the boards of the deck, and ſome Frenchmen, in the night, had plundered his pockets, and ſtolen his hat. Enquiry and remonſtrance were on this occaſion equally vain; a leather cap was found

for him, but that was alſo miſſing the next morning. As his head appeared to be in ſome danger, I applied to Monſieur Marin for his admittance into the cabin, to attend me, and ſucceeded: he was alſo taken into the ſteward's meſs, generally not the worſt in the ſhip.

The other matter concerned our lodging in the *chambre de conſeil*; which, however unpleaſant to us, it ſeems, was not leſs ſo to the officers of the ſhip; and, after the manner of the French, we were very politely adviſed, for our own convenience, to go below; but, as the former objection ſtill continued, no notice was taken of this hint, though ſufficiently intelligible.

One

One of the lieutenants, the only perſon of the ſhip who ſpoke Engliſh, was therefore ſent to me, to aſk what objection I had to ſleep below with my countrymen, as he phraſed it. This brought on a converſation, in which he thought proper to queſtion me, whether I recollected the ſituation in which I was on board that ſhip, and what meaſures I intended to take, if our going below ſhould be inſiſted on? To the firſt, I anſwered, that, if I had been inclined to forget for a moment that I was a priſoner, his behaviour would compel me to recollect it. To the ſecond, that I had no doubt of obtaining the Brigadier's permiſſion to ſleep on the deck, which I had determined to do, rather than to go below. Had I been

taken at my word, it would have been an aukward circumſtance; but the matter took a more favourable turn, the carpenter received orders to fit cots, to hang in the *grand chambre*, not only for us, but for all the Britiſh officers; and the affair ended to our ſatisfaction.

Piſtoneau, my recruit, has ſhewn great attachment and gratitude. As he ſuperintends the management of the poultry, he has offered me any that I may have occaſion for. As his friendſhip can be of no uſe to me, I have rendered it ſerviceable to the maſter and mate of our late ſhip, who have been treated but indifferently. I mention this as an inſtance

ſtance that even a Grand Tour Man may poſſeſs good qualities.

On board are two companies of the French regiment de Baſſigny, or thirty third, acting as marines. The officers are gentlemanlike men; the ſoldiers ſtout, clean, and well appointed.

I had been amuſing myſelf this morning with the ſight of a vaſt number of bonitos, a large fiſh, frequent in thoſe ſeas, which accompanied and played round the ſhip. Some of the ſailors endeavoured to ſtrike them with ſpears, but without ſucceſs, when an alarm was given that a man was overboard. Our firſt queſtion was, "Is he an Engliſhman?"

man?" All ran to the ſtern gallery, where we ſaw a poor Frenchman ſtruggling with his fate. All efforts were made to ſave him, but in vain.

We continue to cruize off Cape St. Vincent, making the land of the Cape every evening. On a hill ſtands a convent, in a very pleaſant, but ſolitary, ſituation. The country ſeems to be ſandy and thinly inhabited.

Some of our young men complain of the dulneſs and want of novelty in their ſituation. To one of theſe, curſing his fate, the Swiſs lieutenant that I have already mentioned made an obſervation that pleaſed me. This gentleman has been very many years a ſubaltern officer, and, of courſe,

multa

multa miſerrima vidit. In this, perhaps beſt ſchool, he has learned patience and prudence. "Ah!" ſaid he, "of what do you complain? You have every thing that you want, and nothing to pay: I wiſh that it was my fate always to live thus."

My letters, I fear, are too long. I forget that, though I have little elſe to do but to write, you have many better avocations than to read ſuch letters as theſe of

Your aſſured Friend,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER VII.

DEAR SIR, Burgogne, at Sea, Auguſt 21, 1780.

HAVING walked on the quarter-deck for ſome time this afternoon with Monſieur le Brigadier Marin, amidſt various groups of ſailors, ſoldiers, &c. &c. ſome employed at cards, ſome eating their meſſes of beans and oil, and others in leſs reſpectable modes, ſo as to impede the paſſage along the deck of this very large ſhip; not one individual ſhewing any mark of reſpect or attention to the Captain; I was naturally led to conſider the difference of internal management and diſcipline obſerved on board a Britiſh and French ſhip of war.

war. This difference ſeems more extraordinary, as it is contradictory to the genius and government of each reſpective Nation.

The Britiſh ſyſtem of government is mild and free; yet, on board a Britiſh ſhip of war, the ſtricteſt diſcipline prevails. Every rank has its diſtance; and ſubordination is exactly preſerved. The Captain, the Lieutenants, the Midſhipmen, and Warrant Officers, all feel their conſequence and ſuperiority. Every Officer, Petty-officer, Seaman, and Marine, has his allotted poſt and duty. No uſeleſs hand impedes or diſcourages the general union and ſervice. The plan is ſo perfect, that the leaſt deviation from it diſcovers itſelf, and is immediately

mediately corrected. The Captain's table is almoſt always hoſpitable; his officers are his frequent gueſts, by invitation; improper familiarities are ſedulouſly diſcouraged; every individual ſeems to know his proper poſt, and to maintain it.

The French government approaches to deſpotiſm; and has been found, in ſome inſtances, ſevere: but on-board a French ſhip there is not even the appearance of diſcipline or order; every man follows his own invention in his own way. As theſe ſhips are more numerouſly manned than Britiſh ſhips of equal rate, the miſchief is increaſed in proportion.

After

After the deduction of about half the number of the crew, as ſailors, marines, and cannoniers (a very uſeful order of men on board ſhips of war, and an improvement well worth the attention of the Britiſh Admiralty), the remainder are a mere rabble, food for powder, uſeful only *fabas conſumere*.

To this want of neceſſary order it is owing, that a landſman ſent on board a French ſhip of war ſeldom becomes a ſeaman. To the conſequent abundance of uſeleſs hands may be aſcribed the great diſproportion of killed and wounded in actions between ſhips of equal force; and that, invariably, againſt the French. All ranks of officers ſeem to be thrown

thrown together. The Captain receives an allowance to ſupport a table, where all officers, from the Captain to the Midſhipman, live together. This induces a degree of familiarity by no means favorable to the diſcipline of their navy. I am told, that the allowance of the Captain is extended to officers that happen to be taken and continue priſoners on board his ſhip. This is liberal.—In the explanation of ſignals, certainly of great conſequence on board all ſhips of war, but particularly difficult in the French navy from their infinitely various and complex nature, *la jeuneſſe*, the Captain's boy, is generally the firſt to give an opinion; and his opinion ſeems to have more weight than that of any other perſon in the ſhip.

ſhip. To this contraſted conduct we owe, in no ſmall degree, the pre-eminent excellence and ſuperiority of the Britiſh navy.

To the method of manning ſhips by preſſing, much is alſo due. I am convinced that it would be impoſſible to form an adequate number of ſeamen for the ſervice of the navy by any other means. When the ſhip of the merchant has performed her voyage, the crew are taken into the navy. The merchant muſt find other men, before his ſhip can again proceed to ſea. From the neceſſity of the caſe, the number of apprentices is greatly increaſed; young and active men, encouraged by the bounty and wages that are

offered, leave the plough and the loom, to brave the ocean and its dangers. The ſhips of the merchant are ſo thinly manned in time of war, that landſmen muſt render themſelves uſeful; conſequently ſoon become, in ſome degree, ſeamen: theſe, in their turn, are removed to the navy, where diſcipline and example finiſh what the neceſſity of the merchant ſervice had begun. By theſe means a new race of ſeamen is continually brought forward; and the longer the war laſts, the greater number of this uſeful body of men is formed for the public ſervice. I am aware that this practice has been conſidered as bearing hard on the feelings of individuals; nor can the harſhneſs of the meaſure be juſtified,

but from the neceſſity of war, in the preſent ſtate of Europe, as the means of ſelf-defence; but, placing for a moment the *Res publica* out of the queſtion, it muſt be allowed, that ſeamen of neceſſity get their living on board ſhips, that their proviſions are better, and more liberally ſupplied, in the king's ſervice, than in that of the merchant; their labours and hardſhips are leſs ſevere, and their profits, taking in the chance of prize money, perhaps, not very unequal; that, to give an option to theſe habitually inconſiderate men is putting a dangerous weapon into their hands, which generally turns againſt themſelves. Abuſes certainly exiſt in the management of this ſervice;

but to object, is eaſier than to remedy.

I have to-day, with Monſieur le Brigadier, viſited this ſhip between decks; a very conſiderable part of it appears to be adapted to culinary purpoſes. It is aſtoniſhing what attention is here paid to the article of eating. Every kind of viand is provided for the *grand chambre*; even veal, pigeons, and rabbets—ſoft bread is baked twice in a week; and, as I am told, ſerved to all the ſhip's company. It has been obſerved, that Engliſhmen take more animal food than Frenchmen; the contrary is ſo evident here, that it is our general opinion, that, taking the meſs together, the French exceed us, in that particular,

particular, in the proportion of three to one at leaſt.

The allowance of ſalted proviſion to the ſhip's company is very ſmall. Dried French beans, or caravances, ſtewed and mixed with oil, highly ſeaſoned with garlick—theſe, with bread, make the chief part of their diet.

We ſtill continue to cruize off the Cape of St. Vincent, in good health and tolerable ſpirits; and I remain,

Your moſt faithful,

R. C.

LETTER VIII.

DEAR SIR, Burgogne, at Sea, Auguſt 23, 1780.

OUR cruize, there is reaſon to believe, draws near its period. To-day I took the liberty to aſk Monſieur Marin his opinion on this ſubject. His anſwer was nearly this, "Our freſh proviſions will laſt until the end of the next week: Few ſhips of the fleet are better provided in that reſpect than the Burgogne. I think that about that time we may enter a port." This morning a turtle was diſcovered floating, aſleep on the water: a boat being put over, it was taken, and brought on board. It was of the Hawks-bill kind, and weighed about fifty

fifty pounds. This ſpecies is not conſidered very good meat, and, when ſerved at dinner, proved of a diſagreeable fiſhy taſte, and was not highly commended. The Hawksbill turtle is common in theſe and the Mediterranean ſeas. I had never eaten of it before. The green turtle is ſo much ſuperior in delicacy, that in the Weſt India Iſlands this kind is rarely uſed.

We have gone through a ceremony which we did not expect. Monſieur Marin, after having thrown out ſome hints of a ſuſpicion that the colours and military cheſt of the regiment were concealed on board the ſhip, declared a neceſſity of examining the baggage of the Britiſh officers. This

has been done: but neither colours nor military cheſt have been found. In the conduct of this buſineſs ſome amuſement was diſcovered at my expence. The Serjeant Major of the regiment had deſired, at the time of our being taken, that I would permit my name to be placed on a cheſt belonging to him, as he hoped that it might be the means of ſecuring it from plunder: this I willingly conſented to, and had really forgotten the circumſtance, when a cheſt of a moſt unwieldy bulk and appearance was brought on the quarter-deck in my name. Nothing had yet been ſeen ſo well calculated for the ſecurity of public or private property; it was therefore fairly to be ſuppoſed that the booty was there. With much difficulty

ficulty it was opened, and its contents examined, when there appeared a great variety of gowns, petticoats, and other articles of female apparel. This was conſidered by the Frenchmen as a very good joke, and afforded much entertainment.

We have contrived to loſe the little caſh we brought on board, to the officers of the ſhip, who are greatly ſuperior to us in games of ſkill. The knowledge of theſe games form a part of their education; and the practice, no inconſiderable portion of their ways and means. I mean not a reflection; a perſon in the habit of play, cool, temperate, and ſkilful, muſt ſucceed when oppoſed to a caſual adventurer. A French officer

officer ſeldom declines high play, at any game, either of ſkill or chance.

My next letter will probably be from Cadiz, which is ſuppoſed to be the deſtination of the fleet.

Believe me truly yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER IX.

DEAR SIR, Burgogne, Harbour of Cadiz, 31ſt of Auguſt, 1780.

ACCORDING to the prediction of Monſieur le Brigadier Marin, the fleets bore away on the twenty-ſixth, and we that day took our leave of Cape St. Vincent. During the time of their cruize in that latitude the combined fleets made two prizes only, both brigantines bound to Gibraltar.

On the 29th, the fleets entered the harbour of Cadiz; in the bay lie the remains of two Spaniſh ſhips of the line, which were taken in the action between Sir George Rodney and Admiral

miral Langara, afterwards driven on ſhore in a gale of wind, and loſt. This is a capacious harbour. The entrance is narrow, and well guarded by forts and batteries. Above it ſtands the city of Cadiz, the emporium of the Spaniſh trade in Europe. Its walls and towers make an appearance of great ſtrength; but unluckily we are obliged to ſubmit to the mortification of viewing them at a diſtance, as the Conde O'Reilly, Captain General of Andaluſia and Governor of Cadiz, has directed that no Britiſh officer from the combined fleet ſhall land on the iſland, or enter the city of Cadiz. Some of our folks have waited on Admiral Don Juan Cordova, to deſire his permiſſion to land at Cadiz; they were politely received,

and

and aſſured by the Admiral that it was not his wiſh to detain them on board the ſhips; that his command extended no farther than to the fleet; he conſequently had no other power but that of recommending the meaſure, which he would immediately do.

There has been alſo a report, that the Britiſh officers will be ſent to Gibraltar, on their parole; but this deſerves little attention: there is great reaſon to believe, that the Governor of that fortreſs would not receive them on that condition; idle hands being neither deſirable nor uſeful in a beſieged garriſon. We hope better things. We, however, feel, in ſome reſpects, the advantage of the vicinity

of

of Cadiz: the table, in addition to its uſual plenty, is ſupplied with excellent fiſh and very good fruit. As ſoon as the ſhip was at anchor, boats came alongſide with grapes in hampers for ſale; but theſe were not admitted to be brought on board the ſhip; probably from experience that the uſe of them affects the health of the people: by ſpecial permiſſion a hamper was purchaſed for us, the price a *peſetta*, about ten pence. Theſe grapes were white, and very excellent. The hour of dining on board is changed from eleven to two. This gives to the officers of the ſhip and troops the opportunity of going on ſhore and returning to dinner—moſt of them do this daily. Very unlike the cuſtoms of Britiſh officers in

in ſimilar circumſtances; who, when once landed at Cadiz, would not have again ſeen the inſide of the ſhip, unleſs their duty required their preſence on board, or the ſtate of their finances would not admit of their continuance on ſhore. The Frenchman, on the contrary, dreſſes, parades the ſtreets, viſits the coffee-houſes, and returns on board; his whole expence, probably, not more than ſix pence. It remains to be accounted for, why the levity of a Frenchman is ſeldom diſcovered where his purſe is concerned: of an Engliſhman, more frequently in that reſpect than in any other.

We have received ſeveral viſits from brother-officers on board other ſhips.

ſhips. From their univerſal teſtimony it is but juſtice to declare, that the Spaniſh and French officers have conducted themſelves in the moſt civil and attentive manner towards the officers, priſoners on board their reſpective ſhips.

To the women their behaviour has been in the higheſt degree praiſeworthy. Theſe were all ſuffered to remain on board the ſhips taken by the French, in the protection of their huſbands, fathers, or any other relative; and this without diſtinction, whether officer, ſoldier, or paſſenger. The Spaniards received them on board their ſhips, and treated them with the utmoſt kindneſs and reſpect. The excellent conduct of Don Juan Mo-

reno, Captain of The San Miguet, Spaniſh ſeventy-four gun ſhip, well deſerves to be generally known. A tranſport, in which were many of the wives and children of the ſubaltern officers of our regiment was taken by that ſhip. Theſe poor women had little to recommend them to the notice of Don Juan, except their forlorn and helpleſs condition: he received them on board his ſhip with the utmoſt goodneſs, and gave up his own apartments to them and their children; ſeveral cradles were actually in the ſtate-room: he treated them with the politeneſs that might have been expected only by the moſt diſtinguiſhed gueſts. The kindneſs and hoſpitality which the Spaniards have ſhewn on this occaſion have

been aſcribed to a ſenſe of gratitude on account of the generous manner in which their priſoners, taken by Sir George Rodney were treated on board the ſhips of his ſquadron, and afterwards at Gibraltar. This may, and without doubt ought to have had its proper effect—but, whatever may have been its cauſe, or from whatever motive it proceeded, the benevolent and liberal conduct of the Spaniards in general is intitled to the higheſt commendation.

I have juſt been told, that orders have been received on board, from the Admiral, to land the Britiſh officers at Port St. Mary's.

This

This promiſe of a new ſcene has given us new ſpirits and expectations;' for, however, well received, or well-treated on board The Burgogne, we ſhall certainly leave the ſhip without reluctance. I am ſorry that the ill humour of the Conde O'Reilly has prevented me from giving you an account of Cadiz: but in our preſent ſituation we cannot have exactly our own way.

With reſpects to our friends I remain, whether at ſea or on ſhore,

Yours moſt faithfully,

R. C.

LETTER X.

DEAR SIR, Arcos de la Frontera, September 8, 1780.

CONGRATULATE me on having again found reſt for the ſole of my foot. We arrived at this city on the fifth of this month, the end of our journey, and probably the place of our reſidence for a ſeaſon.

We landed at Puerto de Santa Maria, Port St. Mary's, early in the morning of the 31ſt of Auguſt. Every mark of civility and attention was ſhewn to us at our departure from The Burgogne by Monſieur le Brigadier Marin and his officers. Endeavours were uſed to perſuade us, that

that we were not to expect the ſame polite treatment from the Spaniards that we had received from them; it was even hinted, that our arms and baggage would probably be taken from us; but, as we had by this time learned on all hands the friendly diſpoſition of the Spaniards towards us, theſe hints gave us little concern.

Our baggage was ſent on ſhore with us, except ſome trifling articles that had been preſented to our entertainers. One of the Lieutenants received a fuzee from me, which he ſeemed to like, with many acknowledgements of obligation. Our ſervants were alſo permitted to attend us, which we rather wiſhed than expected to happen. Farewel, Bur-

gogne. By the bye, this ſhip had been built more than forty years; and, if the Britiſh fleet had overtaken them, as for ſome time we ſincerely believed, that they would do, ſhe would probably have proved our grave, her condition being ſuch that little hope of her out-living an action could reaſonably be entertained. Immediately on our landing we were conducted to the Poſada or inn, where moſt of the Britiſh officers from the fleets had already aſſembled. Soon after Major Butler, nephew of the Conde O'Reilly, arrived, for the purpoſe of receiving our paroles. Mr. Butler is an Iriſhman, a Major of dragoons in the Spaniſh ſervice, and Aid de Camp to the Governor General of Andaluſia. All things ſeemed to proceed

proceed with great cordiality, when it was diſcovered that a ſentry had been unluckily placed at the door of the Poſada. At this breach of military etiquette offence was taken, and your friend Captain M. was the firſt to declare that he would not ſign his parole until the ſentry was removed, and an apology made. This Major Butler ſeemed not diſpoſed to do, though, in other reſpects, he behaved with polite attention; and there appeared no method of making amends for having placed the ſentry at the door of the Poſada, but by ſending us to priſon. However, after ſome time ſpent in argument, Major Butler declared, that the ſentry had been placed for the purpoſe of reſtraining impertinent curioſity only.

This was very properly conſidered a ſufficient apology; the paroles were ſigned, the ſentry removed, and the matter ended.

This point had ſcarcely been adjuſted when a new difficulty occurred: the Surgeon of the regiment having come forward to ſign his parole, was informed, that in the Spaniſh ſervice a Surgeon was not conſidered in the rank of a gentleman, and of conſequence his parole could not be received. This was a ſevere ſtroke to the pride of a North Briton, who had taken the degree of Doctor of Phyſick. The Doctor remonſtrated, and with no ſmall vehemence urged his pretenſions, but in vain, until Captain M. who had by this time re-

covered his uſual pleaſantry and good humour, exclaimed, " Doctor, retire, and let us fight the battle for you, your appearance is againſt your argument." This *jeu d'eſprit* cauſed a hearty laugh; and, after ſome farther converſation, the Doctor's claim was allowed. The Major introduced a greyheaded Iriſh enſign in the Spaniſh ſervice, a Mr. Malony, to be our guide and interpreter; and, after having acquainted us that carriages would be ready at nine o'clock the next morning to proceed on our journey, took his leave. Dinner now became an object of conſideration; with ſome difficulty the half of a cold turkey was procured; which furniſhed a ſlender meal for half a dozen of us. We had, however,

luckily

luckily ſomething in expectation: it being Sunday, a bull-feaſt was to be exhibited, and at half after three we adjourned to the Placa de Toro. The entertainment had already begun. This placa is a large ſquare with boxes ſix ſtories high. Theſe were filled with ladies and gentlemen of good appearance and gaily dreſſed, who ſeemed highly delighted with the ſhew, and expreſſed their approbation by clapping their hands, and other marks of applauſe: but whether it is that the bull-feaſts at Puerto de Santa Maria are comparatively of leſs conſequence than thoſe held at Madrid, Cadiz, or Seville—whether the bulls are leſs fierce, or the caveleros leſs active and enterpriſing—or whether the accounts which I have read

read of theſe famous exploits have been raiſed into conſequence by the pen of the traveller—I know not; certain it is that this combat did not anſwer my expectation. The bulls were neither formidable in their appearance nor in their mode of attack; they were teized and tormented into a ſemblance of intended miſchief apparently not natural to them. The horſemen and footmen ſeemed not to be in that degree of danger which would have intereſted the ſpectators for their ſafety. I am of opinion that a ſtout Engliſh bull would have put thoſe Cavaleros out of their play. Several of theſe animals were killed, but there was little more entertainment in the manner of their death than if they had been ſlain by the butcher.

butcher. The greater degree of cruelty certainly cannot recommend it. Theſe exhibitions muſt be conſidered diſgraceful to the Spaniards, as a polite and intelligent nation: there really appears leſs to be ſaid in favour of them, than of theſe popular bull-baitings by dogs, not uncommon in the Weſtern counties of England; but it muſt be always remembered that in Spain thoſe games are attended by the fair, the polite, the accompliſhed—in England, by the rabble only. It has been ſaid, in favour of theſe bull-feaſts, that they are encouraged in Spain on the ſame principles that *amateurs* defend the practice of boxing in England, as means of preſerving an energetic vigour, an habitual courage in the people,

people. How far this has ſucceeded in England I will not now enquire; in Spain it cannot be diſputed that the bull-feaſts, if they ever had that effect, have long ſince entirely failed in that reſpect. In truth, courage and brutal cruelty are not ſo nearly allied. This buſineſs ended, about ſix o'clock, we then moved to the Alameda, a very pleaſant public walk in ſight of the ſea.

Here moſt of the company from the bull feaſt aſſembled; and the appearance of both ladies and gentlemen was highly creditable to Puerto de Santa Maria. The officers of a regiment of dragoons, at preſent quartered in the city, by the gaiety of their regimentals, yellow faced with

with black, added much to the ſhew of company, both at the Placa del Toro, and the Alameda. We ſaw ſeveral parties of this regiment on horſeback in the evening. The men were clean, and well dreſſed; the horſes light, and like the breed of Barbary; both officers and ſoldiers wear the mouſtachio. We were now nearly fatigued with the buſineſs, and pleaſures of the day, and retired to the poſada. Thus paſſed Sunday in one of the moſt bigoted countries of Europe: ſo very different are the opinions of different people relative to the manner of keeping the ſabbath-day. In a room of the poſada, aſſigned for our dormitory, were ſeveral mattraſſes, each man took one,

one, and made the beſt of it for his night's lodging.

I aroſe early in the morning, and ſtrolled about the city; it is well built, and in appearance, reſpectably inhabited. It is ſituated on the north ſide of the bay of Cadiz, about ten miles from that city. It ſeems, from the number of veſſels at anchor in its vicinity, to poſſeſs a conſiderable ſhare of trade. Cadiz is principally ſupplied with water from this place.

This city was ſome days in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, in the beginning of this century. Sorry am I to add, that traditional reports are by no means favourable to the moderation of our countrymen on this occaſion.

At

At half paſt nine ſix very ſuperb coaches, lined with crimſon velvet, and nearly as heavy as the Lord Mayor of London's, each drawn by four mules, were at the door of the poſada. As many as could find room in theſe took their places; horſes, mules, and aſſes, were provided for the reſt; and, about noon, we arrived at Xeres. The day was extremely hot. The diſtance is called three leagues; and, from the ſlowneſs of our movement, I judge it very little more. At Xeres we found a conſiderable number of Engliſh, the greateſt part of the paſſengers taken in the fleet having been ſent to this city. Of theſe were the gentleman and lady who had been our fellow-paſſengers on board The Morant.

The

The Lieutenant Colonel and I made them a viſit; they were very well lodged, and in expectation of returning to England immediately. We were preſſed to dine with them; but we conſidered it a point of honor to continue with our companions in diſtreſs; and, although Mr. B. aſſured us that Malony had taken us to the worſt poſada in the city, and that we had a very bad chance of getting a dinner, we ſtuck to our integrity, and returned to our friends. Mr. Malony indeed had taken upon himſelf the taſk of providing; and, though we had no reaſon to expect an elegant dinner, we had no doubt of a ſufficiency of meat. Judge then our aſtoniſhment and diſappointment, when, being introduced to the dining-

room, we found, at each end of a long table, a baſon, or bowl, containing ſoaked bread only, and ſome boiled bones, but of what animal has not yet been diſcovered: this was the proviſion for fourteen hungry Engliſhmen! Malony was called on to account for his conduct; and endeavoured to excuſe himſelf, by alledging the difference of cuſtom in various countries, and, what ſeemed to have a better effect, by promiſing two legs of mutton for ſupper. Petition or remonſtrance would, in this caſe, have been equally unavailing. A conſiderable quantity of eggs was procured, and every other deficiency made up by wine, which was here good and abundant; Xeres giving its name to the wine of this diſtrict, which

which is well known in England by the name of ſherry. At ſupper the legs of mutton were produced; but, being merely the hocks, little ſatiſfaction was given either in quantity or quality. Whether it was that, being out of humour with the meat, we liked the wine the better; or, perhaps, pleaſed again to have met together, we were all loth to part; we certainly ſat till we forgot our captivity, and, miſtaking the Xeres poſada for a London tavern, called for a bill: it amounted to five hundred reals. This was inſtantly pronounced on all hands to be a moſt extravagant charge. Malony, who was by this time ſick of his command, and heartily wiſhed himſelf any where elſe, was again ſent for, and accuſed

of encouraging the people of the poſada to impoſe on us. A reſolution was alſo made, that the company would not leave Xeres until ſatisfaction ſhould be made for the injury done them; and that Mr. Malony might return in the morning to Cadiz, as there was no farther occaſion for him, and his conduct ſhould be repreſented to the Conde O'Reilly. To this Malony pleaded, that, if the gentlemen thought themſelves overcharged, they might pay any part of the bill, or no part of it, if they thought proper; this propoſal was by no means acceded to. However, after ſome deductions, the bill was paid; and we have ſince unluckily diſcovered, that, by not being acquainted with the mode of computation,

tion, and being at that time too wiſe to aſk for information, we paid reals of plate for reals of vellon, and conſequently much more than the charge. I have ſince been told, that it was not expected that we ſhould pay any part of the expences of our journey; but, as a gentleman wiſely obſerved, we ſhall better know how to act the next time that we are taken. The ſhortneſs of our ſtay, and the variety of my occupations, will prevent my giving you any deſcription of the city of Xeres: it is extenſive, and appears to be full of inhabitants. As the ſtreets are not paved, and the ſoil ſandy and light, the duſt is intolerable, and puts me in mind of the clouds of ſand that overwhelm caravans in Arabia Deſerta. Sums of

money are here computed in reals vellon, nearly twopence halfpenny Engliſh.

It was near noon the next day before we were ready to proceed in our journey. The road to Arcos not being ſufficiently wide for the coaches, a conſiderable number of horſes and mules were procured for our conveyance, and that of our baggage.

At the market-place the muletteers appeared with their beaſts, expecting, according to the Spaniſh cuſtom, to be taken up behind the rider; but this ſuited not the taſte of our young men; nor were they better pleaſed with the ſlow pace, to which thoſe animals were accuſtomed. They there-

fore

fore in general ſet off as faſt as their mules could be induced to go, leaving the unlucky Spaniards behind, who, having continued to bawl, *Poco*, *Poco*, until their breath was exhauſted, became mad with rage, and literally devoted the beaſts, and their riders to the devil. My ſervant took up the owner of our mules behind him; and we proceeded fair and ſoftly.

Having left the gardens and vineyards in the neighbourhood of Xeres behind us, we journeyed through a country that had the appearance of an arid deſert. Nothing green could be ſeen, except here and there ſome olive trees, and theſe at a diſtance from the road. Neither flocks nor herds were there, nor was paſ-

ture ſufficient for an aſs to be found in the extent of many miles. We paſſed ſome vineyards; but, as the grapes were now ripe they gave but little variation to the general hue. We made free with the fruit, which afforded an agreeable and neceſſary refreſhment, as we had not met with any houſe of entertainment, or even a drop of water, on the road. The heat was exceſſive, the country open, ſandy, and without the leaſt ſhelter. In this part of the province of Andaluſia it ſeldom or never rains between February and November; during that ſpace of time, the horizon is clear, and the ſun burning; this will ſufficiently account for the preſent face of the country. I do not recollect to have experienced more incon-

inconvenience from heat in any climate than I did in this day.

Having travelled through the flat country about four hours, we left the road, and, turning to the right, aſcended ſome hills. The country that we had yet paſſed through, though burnt, had the marks of agriculture; and, in general, was covered with the ſtubble of the laſt harveſt. But we now came to a waſte, which probably never felt the plough-ſhare. This continued for ſome miles, until we came to ſome olive plantations, and ſoon after ſaw the city of Arcos, where we arrived extremely fatigued. The diſtance from Xeres is computed ſeven leagues.

I have

I have now brought you to the end of our journey, and ſhall take an early opportunity to acquaint you with our proceedings here. In the mean time, believe me,

moſt aſſuredly,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XI.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Sept. 8, 1780.

FORTUNATE it was, that ſome of our friends had reached Arcos before us. Thoſe officers who had women under their protection, or were not in health at the time they were taken, were permitted to remain on board the Engliſh veſſels; thoſe, of courſe, arrived at Cadiz a conſiderable time before we did, and, having been diſpatched by the Conde O'Reilly to Arcos, had been ſettled there ſome time. Theſe getlemen received us hoſpitably; and, as our arrival had been ſome time expected, were prepared for our reception.

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The billets were ready for us; we were quartered on the better ſort of inhabitants; and intimation given, that lodging, fire, and water, were to be provided for us *gratis*.

My lot fell on the houſe of Don Chriſtofero Rittomallos: this Don is a corn-factor; he has given me the poſſeſſion of his beſt apartment. On the floor is a bed, placed on mats; and ſheets bordered with broad lace. An interpreter, who has been ſent hither for our accommodation, has informed me, that my landlady was much diſappointed in the appearance of her gueſt; ſhe had, it ſeems, made intereſt to have a *Capitano* quartered at her houſe; and the interpreter aſſured her that ſo it was; but the old

old Lady believed it not. She ſaid, that a Spaniſh Captain was *mucho grande, very fat, and wore many rings.* You will not blame her unbelief. This city has been fixed on by the Conde O'Reilly, for the reſidence of the Britiſh military only. He told Captain G. who applied to him for money at Cadiz, that he had choſen it becauſe the Britiſh officers ſhould not have the opportunity at Arcos of hurting themſelves by their extravagance; and ſurely no ſituation in Spain can be better calculated to prevent it. The articles of neceſſity that may be had here are, beef, mutton, bread, wine, chocolate, and ſome fruit. Tea, coffee, milk, butter, or cheeſe, are not to be procured. Here are neither taverns, coffee-houſes,

nor

nor places of public entertainment of any kind. The city is out of all line of communication by travelling.

Our colony conſiſts of twenty-one officers of our regiment, and of ten or twelve belonging to other corps, with a number of cadets who were on their paſſage to the Eaſt Indies, and taken in the Company's ſhips: theſe gentlemen thought proper to call themſelves Britiſh officers, and were for that reaſon ſent hither. Here is alſo a gentleman, who, I am told, is a Weſt India merchant: he held a commiſſion in the militia of one of the iſlands, and declared himſelf a Lieutenant-Colonel. Of this ſtep he will have time and leiſure to repent: if he had acknowledged

ledged himſelf a merchant and paſſenger, he would have been at this time on his paſſage to England. Engliſh ladies we alſo have, but in no great number. I compute that, including ſervants, there may be about an hundred Britiſh here.

The morning after our arrival half a dozen of us had a meeting, to conſult on ſome method of living. Colonel Spinoſa, an officer who has retired to this city, has preſented to the Lieutenant Colonel an houſe furniſhed for his uſe during his reſidence here. Of this houſe the Lieutenant Colonel offered a dining-room and the kitchen for the meſs: this was readily accepted; and it was agreed, that each member ſhould take

take the management weekly; and that his ſervant ſhould be the cook. The firſt week has fallen to my lot, not on account of any particular merit of mine, as you will do me the juſtice to believe; but great dependance was placed on the uſeful qualities of my ſervant. We entered on our office the next morning, went to the market for beef, to the gardens for vegetables, produced very good ſoup and bouillé; and every one was content. With reſpect to the cookery, there were many difficulties to ſurmount. A Spaniſh kitchen furniſhes neither pots nor kettles, ſpit, frying-pan, nor gridiron—a ſmall ſtewpan ſerves for all culinary purpoſes. We had neither diſhes, plates, knives, forks, ſpoons, glaſſes,

nor cups; and many of these articles could not be procured. In this instance Fortune was our friend—a gentleman of our regiment, in the intention of taking his family to Jamaica, had providently purchased a good assortment of earthen and glass ware for the table. These he parted with; and it was to us an acquisition of great value. Our side-board was now much better furnished than our table. Beef, mutton, bread, and wine, are, however, to be found, although much cannot be said in praise of the first-mentioned articles. The beef is of the colour of mahogany; not quite so hard: but, as the bullock has nothing to feed on but straw and barley, the meat is incredibly tough. The mutton, the flesh of rams, is worse

than the beef; both muſt be uſed the ſame day the animal is killed, the weather being ſo exceedingly hot that no proviſion can be kept to the ſecond day. Precautions are of no uſe; ſalt will not preſerve it an hour.—Some good vegetables were found in the gardens, particularly cabbages and turnips. Wine is cheap, and ſometimes very good. Thus we fare, and our condition is here conſidered enviable, and an invitation to our table no ſlight favour.—Printed accounts have been ſent to us of the regulated price of the different articles of proviſion; but, as we are little acquainted with the ſilver currency, and the copper is beyond our comprehenſion, theſe papers have been of little uſe, and we depend on the

the honeſty of the ſeller. The fact is, what can be had for money, and not the price of the article, is generally the queſtion. As caſh became ſcarce, not yet having had time to receive letters of credit from England, we applied to the Conde O'Reilly for a ſupply; in conſequence of which, forty *peſo duro*, or dollars, have been paid to each officer without diſtinction of rank; this amounts to about nine pounds. But money need not here be wanted; the Engliſh character ſtands ſo high in Spain, that caſh is eaſily procured from Cadiz for bills on London, though the drawers of the bills are ſtrangers, without letters of credit. This ſeems very extraordinary; but I know that it has lately happened in ſeveral inſtances. I

hope that neither the national credit, nor that of individuals, may hereafter ſuffer by the generous confidence of the Spaniards in this inſtance.

The inhabitants behave in the moſt friendly manner: from the appearance in the ſtreets you would rather ſuppoſe yourſelf in an Engliſh garriſon, than a Spaniſh city.

Adios, Signior; and aſſure yourſelf that I am, moſt faithfully,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XII.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Sept. 23, 1780.

ARCOS della Frontera, the place of our preſent reſidence, is a very antient city, in the province of Andaluſia; and gives the title of duke to a family of the firſt rank of Spaniſh nobility. It is ſituated on the top of a rocky hill, diſtant from Cadiz twelve leagues, and from Gibraltar thirty.

This city is governed by a Corregidor and Mayor, both appointed by the King. The inhabitants are about ſeven thouſand; and it has two churches, two convents of monks,

one of the Carthuſian, the other of the Franciſcan order; and one of nuns. It has alſo an hoſpital. The caſtle of the Duke is antient, but in good condition. The country about it is fertile in corn, open, and generally without trees; ſome plantations of olive-trees are in its vicinity; theſe relieve the eye, and give ſome ſhelter to the traveller as he paſſes this deſert, for ſuch it at preſent ſeems to be; as, from the long drought, neither herb nor graſs can be ſeen.

The Guadalete runs below the city, but its courſe ſeems to give neither fertility nor beauty to the ſcene. Its ſtream is heavy and ſable; its banks rocky and ſterile: the fiſh, I am aſſured, are not fit for food. The

Huertas,

Huertas, or gardener's grounds, at the bottom of the hill on which the city ſtands, are fertile and pleaſant. Water is conveyed through theſe gardens, from wells, by the labour of aſſes and cows. The trees and plants are here in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate: ſome remarkably fine orange trees are full of fruit and bloſſom.

The Ronda mountains are between Arcos and Gibraltar; their high and broken tops are full in our view, and preſent a moſt romantic aſpect. Whilſt we are here burning with heat, Winter ſeems there to have re-eſtabliſhed her dominion. Wolves, they tell me, are very numerous in theſe mountains, and they ſeem to be well

ſuited to ſuch inhabitants. The eagle, the vulture, and all the larger order of birds of prey have alſo their reſidence there. From theſe mountains the whole province of Andaluſia is ſupplied with ice, immenſe quantities of which are conſumed to cool the water that is uſed in their evening entertainments—it is ſold at this time exceedingly reaſonable.

This climate is really burning. The perſons and manners of the native inhabitants are influenced by it; they are pale and thin in their perſons, with a languid appearance, temperate in the greateſt degree in their manners. The cuſtom of taking the ſieſta, or afternoon's ſleep, univerſally prevails; from twelve at noon

to four not a perſon is to be ſeen. The Engliſh, addicted to their habits in every climate, eat beef and drink wine at three o'clock, to the aſtoniſhment of the Spaniards, who ſay proverbially, that no animal, except an Engliſhman or a mad dog, would expoſe themſelves to the mid-day heat of ſuch a ſun.

I feel very ſenſibly the inconvenience of my lodgings, being nearly a mile diſtant from the dining-houſe.

To this extreme heat may be added the plague of inſects and reptiles, always to be found in Southern countries. The bug, the muſquito, the ſand-fly, the lizard, the ant, unite their efforts to make your life miſe-

miſerable. Strangers ſuffer more particularly from theſe.

Some of our women have been dangerouſly ill from fevers, cauſed by the venomous bites and ſtings of theſe creatures. You would not imagine that ſuch a ſtate of ſwelling and inflammation as I have ſeen in ſeveral inſtances could be brought on by theſe means. We have alſo been moſt of us diſordered in a greater or leſs degree; poſſibly by the water, or, perhaps, too liberal uſe of the grapes, or other fruit. Such are the pleaſant effects of the boaſted climate of Andaluſia—ſuch the comforts that attend a land of wine and oil. True it is, that the ſun is clear, and the atmoſphere without a cloud. But

give

give me the temperature of Old England, with its vapours and fogs, its frequent ſhowers, and even laſting rains. It has been well ſaid, that England has the beſt climate in Europe; as more hours in the day, and more days in the year, may be employed in the open air, in that country, than in any other.

O Fortunati, ſua ſi bona norint! where they may eat their meat without fear of indigeſtion, and drink their wine without danger of fever, and where the worſt to be apprehended from the climate is a wet coat.

But we begin to look forward with hope to the approaching change of

of ſeaſon, when, influenced by the autumnal ſhowers, Nature will again revive, when the air will be cool, and the earth covered with green.

We hear nothing of the politicks of Europe, or the progreſs of the war. The Madrid Gazette reaches us once a week, but it rarely contains an article of news, unleſs the removal of the Spaniſh Court from one palace to another may be ſo accounted. This is the only paper of news allowed to be printed in Spain. Liſts were however publiſhed, by authority, of the ſhips and cargoes taken by the combined fleets on the 9th of Auguſt, ſeveral of which we have ſeen here.

As

As you muſt have been ſome time acquainted with our fate, and as the poſt is regular; I entertain hopes, that we may ſoon hear of our families and friends. Believe me, nothing will be more grateful to

Your aſſured friend,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, October 4, 1780.

I MENTIONED to you, in a former letter, the polite attention of colonel Spinoſa to our Lieutenant Colonel: he has extended it to the whole of the Engliſh here. Many of us were invited, ſoon after our arrival, to an evening party at his houſe, where muſick, dancing, and cards, were the entertainments; chocolate, iced water, and biſcuits, the refreſhments. A young lady, daughter to a gentleman of the firſt conſequence here, danced the *Fandango*, with an old ſervant of the Colonel. This will probably ſeem an extraordinary circumſtance, from

the generally received opinion of the dance itſelf; and alſo, as to the propriety of a gentlewoman dancing with a ſervant in ſuch company. In the dance, there was nothing to cenſure; in the dancing, much to praiſe.

The conduct of the lady, in performing this national dance, as an object of curioſity to ſtrangers, muſt be conſidered truly polite; and ſervants in Spain are, much to the honour of the Spaniards, conſidered reſpectable, whilſt they behave well. Servants here are more than half friends; they are eſteemed part of the family, and their deſcendants continue to live in it for ages. Nothing, except very bad conduct, induces maſters to part with ſervants attached

to

to the family; and you will eaſily believe that, in ſuch circumſtances, this rarely happens.

Madam Spinoſa plays and ſings; and her mother, a very old lady, ſtill retains her guitarre.

We have been alſo introduced to another family, of the ſame name; conſiſting of a lady and three daughters, agreeable in their perſons, mild and pleaſing in their manners.

As the houſe of the Colonel is open every evening to all Engliſh ladies and gentlemen, thoſe among us that are attached to muſic and dancing need not be without amuſement. Some of our ladies, who have the means

means of accommodation, invite parties in return; where the Spaniſh ladies willingly attend; and country dances, and a cold ſupper, after the Engliſh manner, make the entertainment.

I wiſh you to know, that we boaſt of the preſence of an Engliſh lady, whoſe poliſhed manners and amiable diſpoſition, would do honour to any rank or country. Allied to a family of fortune and conſequence in England; ſhe choſe to relinquiſh the advantages of theſe, to attend her huſband in a voyage to the Eaſt Indies. The ſhip in which they embarked was taken; and the gentleman, being in the military line, was ſent from Cadiz to this place. Here he took

the uſual chance for a billet, and was by no means fortunate in his lot. Their only apartment is a large room, divided by a curtain. In this humble reſidence ſhe receives her friends and thoſe of her huſband; and both Spaniards and Engliſh, who have the good fortune to wait on her, are delighted with their reception. No complaining, no appearance of regretting the want of the ſplendid apartments to which ſhe has been accuſtomed; the accompliſhments that ſhe poſſeſſes, infinitely beyond what can here be found, are never oſtentatiouſly produced, or whimſically withheld. Although every one muſt wiſh to ſee her in a different ſituation, it will not be eaſy for her to appear

appear in a more amiable point of view.

An odd diſappointment happened to ſome of us a few days ſince. An Engliſh officer, who lodged in the houſe of a perſon of the firſt conſideration here, was deſired, by that gentleman, to invite ſome of his friends to celebrate his daughter's name-day, that is, the day of the Saint whoſe name ſhe bore: the terms of the invitation were, "To drink a glaſs of water." This, the officer obſerved, he ſuppoſed, was the manner of invitation in Spain; as in England, when you are invited to eat your mutton with a friend, it is taken for granted that there is ſomething elſe for dinner. We attended on the day

appointed; and were regaled with abundance of dancing and ſinging; but the refreſhment was literally a glaſs of iced water, with the ſugar-biſcuit that diſſolves in it.

The habitual temperance of theſe people is really aſtoniſhing: I never ſaw a Spaniard drink a ſecond glaſs of wine. With the lower order of people, a piece of bread, with an apple, an onion, or pomegranate, is their uſual repaſt.

We have ſeveral times been favoured with the company of Spaniards at our uſual hour of dinner, who have viſited us at that time from curioſity merely. On being invited to do as we did, according to the Engliſh

Engliſh phraſe of hoſpitality, they ſhook their heads, and declined it, ſaying, *Bueno por Inglere*; *malo por Eſpagnole*. "This may be good for an Engliſhman; but it would not do for a Spaniard."

The old couple, in whoſe houſe I am a ſojourner, never fail to make their appearance, and take their ſeats, whenever I have company, although they never receive any thing that is offered to them, nor underſtand a word that is ſaid. With people ſo abſtemious, it will not be conſidered extraordinary that drunkenneſs ſhould be held in contempt and abhorrence. Indeed, I have never ſeen an inſtance of it among the Spaniards. A friend of mine has got into ſome diſgrace in

this way: In the exerciſe of his hoſpitality to ſome gueſts that he had invited to dinner, he was ſo much diſordered by a more than uſual quantity of wine, and the extreme heat of the weather, that he took my advice to proceed homewards. As we paſſed the houſe of the young ladies I have frequently mentioned, one of them unluckily ſtood at the lattice, and, with her uſual polite civility, invited us to enter. This I endeavoured to avoid; but in vain. My friend behaved with caution during the ſhort time he ſtayed in the houſe, but not ſufficiently ſo to eſcape her penetration: ſhe has not ſeen him ſince that time; but has frequently mentioned him as "your friend that is out of his mind—that has loſt his ſenſes."

A ſtrong proof of Spaniſh temperance, is the effect that the reſidence of the comparatively ſmall number of our people have had on the markets. Before we came here, beef was rarely to be found, mutton, two or three days in the week only, and never on the meagre days. Now there is generally beef; always mutton: the market every day, Sundays not excepted.

The butchers do not cut their meat into particular parts, to adapt them to the choice or the taſte of the purchaſer; but they cut it from the beaſt as it is called for; and you muſt take the coarſeſt parts if theſe are in turn when you come to the market. Every one is ſerved in turn; the Spaniſh

Spaniſh beggar, if he applies firſt, before the Engliſh purveyor: nor will any deſire to oblige, or temptation of a better price, induce the butcher to depart from the obſtinacy of his ways.

Although the climate, in ſome degree, renders abſtinence neceſſary, the people have a more imperious tyrant, Neceſſity, to compel the obſervance of it. Wonderful it is to me how they procure the requiſites of life, reduced by cuſtom as they are. Trade or manufactures they have none. The only inſtance that I have ſeen of any thing like induſtry is in a young ſhoe-maker in my neighbourhood; he is generally at work, and is married to the prettieſt woman that I have ſeen at Arcos.

The

The Summer drought precludes, in a great degree, the poſſibility of agricultural labour, which provides food and rayment for the majority of the inhabitants in countries of happier temperature of climate.

The time of ploughing, ſowing, and reaping, bears but a ſmall proportion to the reſt of the year.

Colonel Spinoſa, and another gentleman of fortune, diſtribute their alms to a very conſiderable number of the poor weekly. I accidentally paſſed through the ſtreet to-day where theſe people were aſſembled; they were, many of them, apparently very old, and generally afflicted with leproſy, ſcrophula, and other cu-

cutaneous diſorders of the moſt inveterate kind. Theſe are probably the effects of the extreme heat of the climate, and the low vegetable diet to which they are accuſtomed. Never ſurely were the ſevereſt ills to which human nature is ſubject more horribly pourtrayed than in this collection of miſerable beings; loathſome and incurable diſeaſe, helpleſs and unregarded old age, and hopeleſs poverty, were here ſeen in their moſt abject and extreme ſtate of wretchedneſs. No ideas equal to this reality ever reached my imagination; and it will not be eaſy to ſhake off the impreſſion that the appearance of this groupe has made. I hope, and really believe, that the whole kingdom of Great Britain cannot furniſh an equal num-

number of equally miſerable wretches. In the ſtreet did theſe poor people wait for ſeveral hours, expoſed to the burning ſun, for the ſake of receiving a *Quarto* or *Ochavo*; the firſt about the value of an halfpenny; the laſt a farthing.

The convents and the hoſpital add the little elſe that is neceſſary to prolong the exiſtence of thoſe more than wretched human beings.

I obſerve in my walks, that the women and children are now employed in gathering and collecting the fruit of the olive-trees. The olive is not unlike a damaſcene-plumb, either in colour or ſhape: they leave them on the trees until they are quite ripe,

by

by which management neither the fruit nor oil are fit for uſe, except to an Andaluſian, the oil being rancid, and the fruit unfit for pickling. The proceſs of extracting the oil is not unlike to that of making cyder by the Devonſhire horſe-pound. This is alſo the ſeaſon of the vintage. Little wine is made in this neighbourhood, the land being chiefly in tillage.

We hear nothing relative to our return. Patience is a virtue; and few have more occaſion for the exerciſe of it than ſoldiers.

My reſpects to our friends; and believe me, moſt faithfully,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Oct. 16, 1786.

WITH the various civilities which we have received from the inhabitants ſince our reſidence here, the polite offer of his houſe or caſtle to the Engliſh officers by the duke of Arcos muſt be mentioned. This was made through the Corregidor; and has been accepted by ſeveral gentlemen who were inconveniently lodged. This houſe is ſituated on the top of the hill, and is in habitable order. I continue with my old people, fearing leſt I may change for the worſe.

Nothing is here ſo truly inconvenient to ſtrangers as the attachment the people have to the forms and ceremonies of their religion, and the jealouſy with which they regard any neglect of, or diſreſpect to them. The frequent proceſſions of the Hoſt are very troubleſome to us. A trumpeter and a man carrying a bell always precede the prieſt. As ſoon as the approach of the Hoſt is announced by the ſound of theſe inſtruments, all perſons, whether they are in the houſe or in the ſtreet, on horſeback or on foot, inſtantly fall on their knees, and thus continue until the cavalcade is paſt. When it was known that heretical people were about to reſide here for a ſeaſon, four ſoldiers, with bayonets fixed, were ordered to attend and guard

guard the proceſſion; theſe march before the prieſt; and at the door, of the houſe where the ſick perſon reſides, the ſoldiers kneel, and preſent their arms. The prieſt walks into the houſe; the ſoldiers continue in the ſtreet, kneeling, until his return.

It is not always poſſible for us to avoid this buſineſs; we are ſometimes ſurprized; and then, as we do not think it neceſſary to perform the whole ceremony, ſtand cloſe to a houſe, uncovered, until the proceſſion has paſſed. This the Spaniards ſeem to think not ſufficiently reſpectful, and ſome unpleaſant diſputes have happened in conſequence. It certainly is a miſtake to ſuppoſe that the Hoſt is carried to people in caſes of extremity

mity only: we are told, that devotees ſend for it on very ſlight occaſions; the frequency of theſe proceſſions is in favour of this report. A gentleman of our party held lately a converſation with an old Spaniſh woman, and a young one, in a court divided from the ſtreet by a high wall, on a ſubject in which Religion had not the leaſt concern, when the trumpet was heard, as the Hoſt paſſed through the ſtreet, both the women inſtantly fell on their knees, and continued to pray with much ſeeming devotion, until the ſound was loſt; they then got up, and reſumed the converſation. Every evening, about ſunſet, the ſound of a bell from one of the churches has an inſtantaneous effect: the dance is ſuſpended, the muſic ceaſes, the cards

cards are laid down; all perſons, whether engaged in buſineſs or pleaſure, abroad or at home, ſay a prayer; thoſe in the ſtreets, arreſted by the ſound, ſtand ſtill and take off their hats. This ceremony continues a very ſhort ſpace of time; the bell ceaſes, and all return to their amuſements or employments. It ſeems extraordinary, that on theſe occaſions none are obſerved negligent or ſcoffing; every perſon ſeems to be actuated by the ſame religious motive. This cannot eaſily be accounted for, unleſs by the power the court of the Inquiſition has obtained over the minds of theſe people in all matters of religious concern. The Engliſh have generally paid that reſpect to the religious cuſtoms of the country,

which both civility and prudence dictate; but in this inſtance, if ſome young men, from levity or inattention, have continued their walk without notice, the Spaniards exclaim, *Sombrero! Sombrero!* Your hat! your hat! and, if no attention is paid, expreſs diſſatisfaction, and ſometimes reſentment.

On the doors of all the houſes are placed printed papers, as religious amulets or charms, which contain theſe words, *Ave Maria, ſin peccado concepida*; and generally a prayer to the Virgin. This is alſo the uſual ceremonial of entrance into the houſe: the viſitor ſays, *Ave Maria*; the perſon within, *Sin peccado concepida. Roſarios*, or proceſſions of the religious through

through the ſtreets, attended with ſingers and muſical inſtruments, are frequent both day and night.

In ſeveral parts of Arcos are hovels, in which are placed the figures of ſaints, with lamps always burning: there is a ſort of window, through which the image may be ſeen. Here beggars, and the loweſt order of people, generally pay their devotions. In the churches and chapels devotees may always be found, chiefly women paſt the middle age.

The day of Santa Paſtora, a famous ſaint in this neighbourhood, has been lately obſerved. A proceſſion, in which was carried a repreſentation in plaſter of Paris, neatly paint-

ed, of this patroneſs of rural life, with her ſheep and her goats, took place, from the houſe of Colonel Spinoſa, to the church. Several of us were deſirous of attending, and carrying lights in this ſhow. Our ſervices were at firſt accepted; but on the morning of the day of the exhibition politely diſpenſed with.

Collections of money for religious or charitable purpoſes are very frequent. In a proceſſion of young women a few days ſince, a very beautiful girl indeed brought the charity-box to the window of our meſs-room. This had the effect it was undoubtedly intended to produce—a very liberal contribution.

The

The common ſalutation in the ſtreets is, *Vaya uſted con Dios!* "May you go with God!" With all theſe religious appearances and attachments, it is extraordinary to find ſo little attention paid to the obſervance of the Sabbath: the markets are open on that day, the plough is at work, and whatever may be found here that can be called labour does not in any degree ceaſe.

We know very little of the religious houſes in this city. I have attended the chapel of the Nunnery; and obſerved, through the lattice, an inconſiderable number of nuns, and thoſe very old; it is probable that the younger part of the ſociety were not permitted to appear.

The Friars of the Carthuſian order are rich, and have not ſhewn the leaſt attention to us: the Franciſcans, who are poor, are of courſe more civil. The latter have invited us to viſit their gardens, and apartments or cells. There is little worth notice in the gardens; and their habitations are diſmal and wretched; their claims on the world ſeem to be few, and thoſe of eaſy attainment. They receive money for the poor, and to their uſe. Conſidering the paucity of wants to which theſe recluſe people are ſubject, it muſt be believed that the alms are conſcientiouſly applied. Thoſe monks have certainly ſacrificed what the world calls the comforts of life; if they have obtained peace in return, happy are they.

An old Captain of our regiment lately died here. As we could entertain no hope of his remains being depoſited in ſacred ground, we choſe a pleaſant ſpot in an olive-ground about a mile diſtant from hence for the place of his interment. All the Engliſh attended; and the funeral ſervice was read by the ſurgeon of the regiment. As this is the firſt religious ceremony that has been obſerved among us ſince our reſidence here, it is not ſuprizing that many Spaniards attended; indeed, I have never ſeen ſo many aſſembled. Some of the lower order ſeemed diſpoſed to be troubleſome; but they were immediately checked, and kept in order, by the reſpectable people preſent. I obſerved many beggars who

attended on this occaſion, and held wooden bowls, to receive money, *por las animas*, for the redemption of the ſouls in purgatory.

The heat is now more moderate than it has lately been: ſome ſhowers have fallen, as an earneſt of the approaching change of ſeaſon; particularly welcome will it be to me, as the exceſſive heat has brought on me a nervous intermittent fever, which has deſtroyed my ſleep, and affected my ſpirits. Our Doctor has combated the diſorder with the liberal uſe of the bark, vitriol, and lemon juice, which will probably have its uſual good effect. Theſe fevers are tedious in their continuance, always unpleaſant, but ſeldom dangerous.

The

The mention of my indiſpoſition has brought to my recollection a viſit that ſome of us paid, ſome days ſince, to Donna Maria Spinoſa, a young lady of the family which I have already mentioned in my letters to you. This viſit was made to congratulate the family on her recovery from a fever with which ſhe had been ſome time affected. We were introduced in form; the Lady received us, reclined on a ſofa, with a bouquet of flowers in her hand; ſhe was very pale and delicate, having been bled very frequently; for the practice of Dr. Sangrado prevails here with little variatian, notwithſtanding the admirable book of La Sage. The Spaniards are, perhaps, leſs diſpoſed than any other nation to be laughed out of their cuſtoms. There

There are no letters yet received from England; nor any thing ſaid on the ſubject of our return. We have accounts from Cadiz, that General Rainsford has eſtabliſhed our credit in a banking-houſe there; ſo that we are in no danger of wanting what money can procure.

In daily hope of hearing from our friends, I remain, with great regard,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XV.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Nov. 4, 1780.

THE changing ſeaſon has produced other advantages beſides the moderation of the heat. The table is much better ſupplied; we procure pork the moſt excellent of its kind; the hogs are of the ſmall, black, wild ſort, and feed in the woods on the acorns of the evergreen oak. Theſe are nearly as ſweet as the cheſnut; and, at this ſeaſon, are a very uſeful and conſiderable article of food to the poorer claſs of people.

Walking with a gentleman, ſome days ſince, we had the good fortune to

to fall in with a large drove of turkeys, on their way to Cadiz for market; we bought four, at a *peſo duro* each, and carried them, more than two miles, to Arcos. Since that time, by ſending out ſcouting parties, we have profited by ſeveral other droves travelling the ſame way. They drive very large numbers from Eſtremadura to Seville and Cadiz at this ſeaſon of the year; in their road they turn them into the olive grounds, where the drivers aſſured us the ripe olive was their principal and beſt food. Fowls may be had; they are ſmall, not good, and very dear. Ducks and geeſe there are none; nor have I ſeen a bird of the aquatic kind. Veal and lamb are abſolutely prohibited. A calf was procured with

with great difficulty, and killed by our people; it was ſmall and lean, and by no means worth the trouble we took to get it. Of game, ſome few partridges, of the red-leg'd kind, have been found. Hares are very plentiful, and cheap; but the meat dry, and hardly eatable. We have met with an excellent bird here, of the buſtard kind; many of theſe are to be found in the open country near the town; they are extremely ſhy, and ſo ſtrong of wing that they may be ſaid to ſoar above the clouds: our ſportſmen have attempted them, both by night and day, in vain; after many trials, they have given up the purſuit, not having ſucceeded to bring home a ſingle bird. Thoſe that we have bought have all been taken

taken in traps. The meat of this bird is of two colours, as in the moor game; it will keep but a very ſhort time, and is extremely delicate. From the arrival of large flocks of goats in the vicinity, milk abounds. Kids may be had, but they are lean, and bad food. Of butter there are two kinds, *monteco de vache*, butter of the cow; and *monteco de puerco*, butter of the hog—abſolutely hogs' lard. Of Spaniſh butter I ſhall have ſaid ſufficient, when I aſſure you that the quality of the latter is to be preferred.

We have had fruit in great variety; apples, apricots, almonds, grapes, oranges, peaches, melons, pomegranates, nuts of various kinds. The apples,

apples, apricots, and peaches, are by no means equal in flavour to thoſe produced in Engliſh gardens. The apricot and peach trees are of a very large ſize. Melons are in great plenty; but I have met with two only that were excellent, or equal to thoſe of Engliſh growth in a favourable ſeaſon: theſe were of a very large kind. I have preſerved the ſeeds for the benefit of my friends. The Spaniſh potatoe is not unlike in taſte to the ſweet potatoe of the Weſt Indies, ſomething between it and the yam. It is my opinion, that in this part of the province of Andaluſia all the tropical fruits may be cultivated with ſucceſs; certain it is, that the degree of heat is ſufficient to bring them to maturity. The pine-apple, the plantane,

tane, and banana, particularly the two laſt-mentioned, on account of their nutritive qualities, would be excellent acquiſitions in a country where the inhabitants are content with a little, and deſire that that little may be procured as eaſily as may be: even the long-continued droughts of this climate would be uſeful to the perfection of theſe fruits, which would ſtand much higher, as uſeful articles of food, than the pomegranate, the grape, or the onion.

Having given you a long account of our meat, I will ſend you an anecdote relating to our wine, which will ſhew the opinion Spaniards have of Engliſh ſobriety and temperance. We have lately found ſome difficulty

to

to procure a ſufficient quantity of good wine for our uſe; and, having procured a recommendation to Meſſrs. Da Coſta and company, wine merchants at Xeres, ſent to them for a ſupply of the beſt wine that could be procured at that place. Some caſks were ſent; but, on trial, the wine was found to contain ſo much of the *aqua ardente*, or Spaniſh brandy, that it was not drinkable. On complaining to the merchants of our diſappointment, they told us, that they were extremely ſorry that the wine had not pleaſed us; that they had always underſtood, that wine could not be made too ſtrong for Engliſh gentlemen, and that they had mixed it accordingly for our uſe. The wine

was ſent back to Xeres, and ſome tolerably good ſent in return.

I have obſerved, in the manner of cultivating their vineyards near this place, that they prune the vine nearly to the old wood, leaving only five or ſix ſpurs, according to the ſtrength of the plant, for the production of fruit. This would certainly be a great improvement to the culture of vines in England; as, in a climate not favourable by nature to the ripening of the grape, to ſuffer the vine to run to wood, as is the general practice, muſt prevent the growth and perfection of its fruit. The vineyards are alſo manured with ſtrong dung, a practice not common in England.

The

The ploughs begin to work generally on the corn lands near the town; they are very ſlight, each drawn by one bullock, and ſometimes by an aſs. The ſoil is light and ſandy; but, from the long drought, this may be rather ſaid to ſcratch the land than to plough it; but ſuch is its natural fertility, that, I am told, they obtain good crops under this management. Thoſe that have eſtates now viſit their *Cortijos*, or country houſes: they do not continue there long at a time, but frequently go backwards and forwards, in their carriages drawn by mules; in longer journeys, to ſave their mules, they uſe bullocks in their calaſhes: as they are extremely careful of their mules, and allow them to go at a very ſlow rate,

it makes little difference in the time of the journey.

The kingdom of Andaluſia has long been famous for its breed of horſes and wolf dogs. Theſe horſes are not now numerous: Colonel Spinoſa has three, all extremely handſome, ſpirited, and powerful; one of them, of a grey colour, is the fineſt animal of the kind I ever ſaw: theſe horſes are held in great value, and, when ſold, bring a very high price; ſome of them, I have heard, fifteen hundred piſtoles. The Spaniards are ſo extremely jealous of the breed, that the exportation of a horſe is by the law a capital offence. The mares are ſeldom uſed, but for

for the purpoſe of treading out the corn.

The wolf dogs are of the maſtiff kind, rough haired, ſtrong and very fierce. A wolf ſeized by one of theſe dogs, never eſcapes; for the wolf, though rapacious and blood-thirſty, is by nature a coward. Thoſe dogs are generally found at the entrance of convents and *cortijos*; they need not have a better guard.

We go on ſinging, dancing, and giving evening entertainments. No Spaniſh woman can reſiſt the deſire ſhe feels of joining the dance, whenever a muſical inſtrument is heard. Before the houſe in which my friend Captain M. lodges, is a ſquare court,

paved with flat ſtones, after the mooriſh manner: his ſervant plays the flute; in the evening, when we have nothing better to do, we take our ſeats in the court; the man begins a lively tune; in a ſhort time the girls aſſemble, the dance begins: paſſers-by, men and women, Engliſh and Spaniards, join for a time, and paſs on; others take their places, until, tired with the entertainment, the muſick ceaſes.

The dreſs of the people at Arcos is univerſally the old Spaniſh. The men wear the *capa* and *ſombrero*, the long cloak, and large flapped hat. This dreſs, heavy as it is in this very hot country, they are ſo much attached to, that an attempt

to

to abolish it caused a very serious insurrection at Madrid a few years since, and the disgrace and flight of the Marquis Squillace, the prime minister. Some of the young men occasionally in summer wear a jacket of silk, or light cloth, a silk net on their hair, called *redicilla*, and the *montero cap*. Children of seven years old are dressed in the *capa*.

The women all wear the *mantilla* or veil; this is a square piece of silk or stuff, generally black, that covers from the top of the head to the waist, and a petticoat of the same materials; these are always worn in the streets and churches.

The youth and beauty of a woman may be generally aſcertained by the cloſe or open manner in which the *mantilla* is worn.

It may be ſuppoſed that intrigues are eaſily carried on, where all women dreſs alike, and none ſhew their faces, unleſs they chooſe to do it. No woman, however, of any condition, is ſeen in the ſtreet without the attendance of an old female ſervant. The men generally carry a ruſty broad ſword under the cloak. It has been ſtrongly recommended to us not to go out without arms, as it is conſidered dangerous; but we have not heard of any accident that can induce us to think ſuch precaution neceſſary; the

the people, in general, being ſober and well behaved. There are, notwithſtanding, many people in the priſon, which I can only account for by the ſlow proceſs of criminal juſtice; ſo that a perſon confined remains in that ſtate for ſeveral years, without enquiry, whether he is guilty or innocent.

We hear nothing about our return; and there is reaſon to believe that this may be the place of our reſidence during the war.

Certain it is, that in our circumſtances we might have been in a worſe ſituation: indeed, we have little reaſon to

to complain, unleſs of the abſence of our friends; and this it muſt of neceſſity be the fate of a ſoldier generally to lament.

Let them remember me;

and believe me always

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Nov. 16, 1786.

I AM juſt returned from an excurſion to Xeres, having engaged in a walking party to viſit that city, our Engliſh friends that reſided there, and the Carthuſian Convent in its neighbourhood. As it was underſtood that our excurſions were limited to the diſtance of a league from Arcos, it became neceſſary to apply to the Corregidor for a *paſſa porto*, which was readily granted. In this paper my name was magnified into *Signior Don Capitano Ricardo Croquē*. We ſet out early the next morning. The road was ſandy; and, as the day advanced, it

it became very hot. We met on the road a muletteer, and him only: he aſked where we were going; and, on being informed, gravely obſerved, that it was *largo paſſao*, "a long walk;" and paſſed on.

On our arrival at Xeres, we found that our friends had left it ſome time, and were at Cadiz in their way to England. We proceeded to the Convent, which ſtands about two miles from the city, where we were favourably received by the Fathers, and entertained with fiſh, eggs, and fruit. The hoſpitality of the convent extends to all ſtrangers, whether poor or rich: its landed poſſeſſions are very conſiderable; theſe chiefly conſiſt of vineyards; and a large proportion of the exten-

extenſive wine trade of this country is in their hands; they are perhaps the firſt wine-dealers in Europe; and can produce wine of every vintage for the laſt hundred years. The wines of Xeres improve both in flavour and colour to a very advanced age. In the evening we intended to take our leave, and return to the city; but the Fathers preſſed us ſo heartily to take up our lodging with them, that we conſented; and, after a breakfaſt of chocolate, very excellent in its quality, returned in the morning to the city. The beds were hard, and the ſheets not very white; but we fared as well in that reſpect as we ſhould have done at the *poſada* of Xeres. We ſtrolled about the ſtreets

and

and churches for ſome time; theſe laſt are highly gilded, with many pictures. As I amuſed myſelf in viewing the latter, a miſchievous Spaniard pointed out to me ſome ſtairs which led to a vault, and preſſed me to go down. Expecting to ſee ſomething extraordinary, I deſcended; but ſoon returned: it led me to a cemetery, in which were many bodies. The coffins were broken; and imagination can hardly conceive ſo horrid a ſpectacle.

This city ſeems to ſtand upon as much ground as Exeter; and, from the number of people moving about the ſtreets, ſeems to be populous in proportion to its extent. The country about it is chiefly in vineyards

and olive-grounds, its lightneſs of ſoil being peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of the olive and the grape.

The cottages in the vicinity are all whitewaſhed on the outſide. This gives a lively appearance in the proſpect: it brought to my recollection the cottages in South Wales, which are whitened in the ſame manner; and, I fear, that they alſo agree too well in another reſpect, being perhaps the moſt wretched habitations in Europe.

The *huertas*, or gardeners' grounds, for the ſupply of the inhabitants, are of conſiderable extent, and abound with

with eſculent vegetables and fruit. The orange-tree ſeems here to have found its natural ſoil; it grows to an extraordinary ſize and height; and, being now full of ripe fruit, gives much beauty to theſe gardens.

The ſtreets are wide, and much improved by the rain that has lately fallen; they are now tolerable.

This city is fifty miles diſtant from Seville; to which place we have thoughts of making an excurſion, if we can be truſted at ſo great a diſtance from our quarters.

Having ſatisfied our curioſity with reſpect to Xeres, we turned our faces homeward; and to the right, near the

the road ſaw the city of Medina Sidonia; it is ſeated on the top of a hill, about ten miles from Arcos. This city is very antient, built with white ſtone, and gives the title of duke to one of the firſt families of Spaniſh nobility. The country about it, to a great extent, is the property of the Duke. In its preſent ſtate it can be of very little value. Corn may certainly be had from this land; though the natural drought of the climate, and want of water, muſt forbid the expectance of other crops. But the riches of the land are in the number of uſeful inhabitants: here the province of Andaluſia is lamentably deficient.

We arrived at Arcos in the evening, ſomewhat fatigued; but not diſpleaſed with this expedition.

I have not yet had the good fortune to hear from you, or any of my friends.

That you may live many years (a Spaniſh mode of ſalutation) is the ſincere wiſh of,

Your obliged and ſincere friend,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Nov. 23, 1780.

A CIRCUMSTANCE has lately happened, which has put me much out of humour with Spain and Spaniards. On Tueſday laſt, ſome time after midnight, I was awakened by a noiſe in the ſtreet, and a knocking at the door of the houſe. Soon after a perſon called on me by name. As my apartment is even with the ſtreet, and has a lattice with iron bars, I directed my ſervant to open the lattice, and ſee who it was. He immediately returned in a fright; and told me, that there were ſeveral ſoldiers and prieſts at the door; that the inter-

preter was among them, who directed him to open the door of the houſe. As I had no idea that this buſineſs could in any wiſe concern me, I bid him go to bed. By this time, however, the ſtreet-door was opened, and my room inſtantly filled, without ceremony, by prieſts, ſoldiers, and armed men: among theſe were the Corregidor and the Interpreter. I now attempted to leave my bed; but the Corregidor deſired me not to diſturb myſelf, but to continue where I was. Having aſked the Corregidor to what circumſtance I was to attribute this extraordinary viſit from him at this unſeaſonable hour, the Interpreter explained the queſtion to him; and he anſwered, that he came by order of the Inquiſition. I confeſs, that at

that

that moment I was not without alarm, and felt it very poſſible that I might have uſed ſome light or idle words in converſation, which might have been conſidered criminal in themſelves, or made ſo by miſrepreſentation. Senſible of the ignorance and bigotry of the people, there was little reaſon to hope that the ſituation in which I ſtood, as a priſoner of war on parole, though privileged in other countries, would ſecure me here from very unpleaſant conſequences. I had, however, preſence of mind ſufficient to aſk, whether this viſit had been particularly intended to me, or whether officers in the ſame ſituation had experienced ſimilar treatment. To this the Corregidor anſwered, that other officers had been viſited in the ſame

manner. This inſtantly removed all my apprehenſions; and, after having remonſtrated againſt the rudeneſs of the intruſion, I aſked the Corregidor what his buſineſs was with me. He ſaid, that he had directions from the Inquiſition to examine my baggage. The trunks were immediately opened, and ſome books taken out; but, as theſe were all Engliſh, the Inquiſitors gained no information from them. After this ceremony, he aſked me if I was a Free-maſon; and, on being aſſured that I was not, after many apologies took his leave; but not until I had told him that I conſidered his conduct as relative to myſelf highly improper, and to a priſoner of war contrary to the uſage of nations. To this it was anſwered, that the

order of the Inquiſition muſt be obeyed; that the king of Spain does and muſt ſubmit to it. The Corregidor then left me to finiſh my night's reſt in the beſt manner I could; and, upon the whole, I was not diſpleaſed that the matter had gone off ſo eaſily.

The next morning, the Britiſh officers held a meeting on the ſubject of theſe viſitations; when it was determined to go to the Corregidor in a body. This was immediately done; and being admitted, Colonel B. with great ſpirit, told him, that we felt our ſituation, and ſhould behave on all occaſions with order and propriety; but, if this unprovoked inſult ſhould be repeated, we were determined to reſiſt it, whatever might

be the conſequence. The Corregidor again pleaded the omnipotence of the Inquiſition, and his obligation to obey the orders he received. Theſe viſits, however, have not been repeated. It appears that this very unpleaſant circumſtance aroſe from the folly of ſome young Engliſhmen, who had put into the hands of the young women of the houſes in which they lodged French books of a very improper tendency. This conduct was a breach of hoſpitality, of which they ought to be aſhamed. In ſearching for theſe books, ſome of the inſignia of Free-maſonry were diſcovered: theſe were ſecured by the Inquiſitors, and carried through the ſtreets in a ſilly proceſſion the next day. If the owners of theſe had been Spaniards,

they

they certainly would have viſited the cells of the Inquiſition, and probably have made a figure in the next *Auto de Fé*. The antient and myſterious order of Free-maſonry is proſcribed throughout the dominions of Spain.

The power of the Inquiſition was exemplified in the behaviour of our Spaniſh friends on this occaſion; who, though they ſeemed to be hurt by the circumſtance, did not ſay a word in diſapprobation of the conduct of the Corregidor, and always appeared to be uneaſy when the matter was mentioned.

This day a conſiderable number of deſerters have paſſed through this place, in their way to embark for Ceuta,

Ceuta, a Spaniſh fortreſs on the coaſt of Barbary, where they are condemned to work on the fortifications: they were confined together by ropes, and led in ſtrings as horſes ſometimes are in England. Theſe were the moſt miſerable wretches I have ever ſeen, to whom the name of Soldier has been given; indeed, from thoſe that I have ſeen of the Spaniſh infantry, little can be ſaid in its favour. From troops ill paid, badly cloathed, and worſe diſciplined, what can be expected?

The Spaniards keep Ceuta at a very great expence, though it is of no uſe to them, but as a place of exile for felons and deſerters. As it was taken from the Moors, the national pride

pride will not allow them to abandon it.

As the ſeaſon of Winter makes its approaches, the evenings and mornings are cold. The Spaniards feel ſenſibly this alteration: enervated by the exceſſive Summer-heats, they bear impatiently this moderate degree of cold; wrapped in their cloaks they complain, *mucho frio*, "it is very cold." But ſo little attention do they give to their comfort, or convenience, that there is not a ſingle fire place or chimney in the city of Arcos, except in their kitchens. The whole family may be ſeen with their heads cloſe to a *braziere*, placed in the middle of the room, ſmoaked and half-ſuffocated with the fumes of burning charcoal.

This

This vile cuſtom renders the faces of the women more pale, and their ſkin of a darker hue; ſo that there is not the leaſt appearance of healthy colour either in men or women.

Great mortality is uſual at this ſeaſon, the Hoſt is ever parading the ſtreets, and frequent funerals are ſeen.

The poorer people, weak and languid from the extreme heat of the Summer, and their miſerable and unwholeſome diet, cannot ſupport themſelves in this change of weather; it increaſes their habitual indolence; they fall without diſeaſe, and may be ſaid to die becauſe they will not take the trouble to live.

Although this alteration of ſeaſon ſeems to have produced no benefit to the perſons of the inhabitants, very different indeed has its effect been on the face of the country; the corn is every where above ground, and covers the land with a verdure pleaſant in its appearance, and comfortable in its proſpects. After the burning heat of an African Summer, we experience, with ſatisfaction, the ſeaſonable coldneſs of a pleaſant Engliſh October. The ſhowers are moderate, and not frequent; we have fair weather for ſeveral days together; but, whilſt you ſuffer from the ſcowling winds and drenching rains of November, envy us not the favorable climate of Andaluſia at this ſeaſon; re-

remember, that the happy fire-ſide is your's, bleſt with the ſocial converſe of your friends; to them make my reſpects, and believe me always,

Moſt faithfully yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

DEAR SIR, Arcos, Dec. 2, 1780.

SINCE my laſt letter to you, we have been ſurprized with the arrival of a Spaniſh captain of dragoons: who brought orders from the Condé O Reilly, that all the Britiſh at this place ſhould prepare for their immediate departure from Spain: the officers on their parole, not to ſerve until they are regularly exchanged. This, you will eaſily believe, has entirely changed the face of affairs; every one forms his own opinion of the probable advantages or diſadvantages that may ariſe to him from this circumſtance; ſome, far from being rejoiced

rejoiced at the proſpect of reviſiting England, raiſe ſerious objections to it: of theſe our Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer is the chief. His objections are of the greateſt conſequence, as none of our regiment will, probably, chuſe to leave Spain without his approbation and concurrence. The Colonel objects to return to England, unleſs the ſoldiers that were taken with us be alſo allowed to return, by exchange or otherwiſe. Certainly the greateſt praiſe is due to the Colonel, on account of the ſacrifice he is willing to make, by his attention to the ſoldiers, and zeal for the ſervice; but, when it is conſidered that theſe men have been confined at Exija and Cordova, both at a conſiderable diſtance from Arcos; that

that we have ſcarcely had an opportunity of hearing any thing of them, except by a ſtraggler or deſerter accidentally paſſing this way; that there is little probability of any communication with them on our part, as the Spaniards have uſed every means to induce them to engage in their ſervice. As, from theſe circumſtances, it is certain that our continuance here cannot be in any reſpect uſeful, I acknowledge that I do not feel the force of the objection.

Others are alarmed at the length, expence, and difficulty of the journey, at this ſeaſon of the year; for, though the port of San Lucar is at a very moderate diſtance, and a paſſage to Liſbon may thence be

eaſily procured, and probably to England, in a neutral veſſel, the Conde O'Reilly, with a ſort of perverſeneſs that has marked the whole of his conduct towards us, has inſiſted that we ſhall be conducted to the frontiers of Portugal, by a very long and circuitous land journey.

I can much leſs eaſily forgive his behaviour to the very amiable lady whom I have mentioned in a former letter: ſhe is, at this time, in a ſtate of health that would render travelling in a country where convenience might be found both dangerous and improper. This has been repreſented to him, and permiſſion deſired that ſhe may go to San Lucar with her huſband, and there embark for Liſbon;

Liſbon; or that they may continue here until ſhe is in a ſituation to travel with ſafety. Both theſe requeſts have been moſt ungraciouſly refuſed, notwithſtanding they were aided by the intereſt of the Corregidor and Colonel Spinoſa.

By this expreſs came alſo the Conde's anſwer to Colonel's B's objections; which was merely this, that it was neceſſary that all the Britiſh officers ſhould leave Spain immediately.

Thus the matter has been decided; and nothing remains for us but to prepare for our journey in the beſt manner we can.

I have lately been ſo much indiſpoſed with a feveriſh diſorder, that I alſo doubted to venture on a journey, through an unfrequented country, at this ſeaſon; but the Conde's meſſage has at once determined me. I am well prepared, with an excellent ſervant, a field bedſtead, good bedding, and warm blankets. We are to move in two diviſions; and it is my lot to go with the firſt.

In a converſation with the Corregidor, relative to the conveyance of the baggage, which, by the forbearance of the Spaniards and French, is very conſiderable, we were informed that mules might be found in ſufficient numbers for that purpoſe, but

that

that we muſt mount the patient burro.

Good things ſeldom happen unmixed with evil. From what has been hitherto conſidered a fortunate circumſtance, ſaving the baggage, I foreſee much trouble and difficulty in this journey.

Tueſday is fixed for our departure. Our former friend, Enſign Malony, is juſt now arrived, to take upon himſelf the office of our guide and patron during the journey. We know not an inch of the route. It will probably be our plan, when we reach the frontiers of Portugal, to get to Liſbon as ſoon as we can, being the moſt likely place to find an early

paſſage to England. The diſtance to Liſbon is eſtimated at ſix hundred miles; a long journey, as we are about to travel.

The Colonel goes with the ſecond diviſion by choice: nearly the whole of the women and children are of this party. It may be apprehended, that in this inſtance they will be found heavy baggage indeed.

The reaſon aſſigned for ſending us away is the greatly-increaſed conſumption of proviſions: the Conde O'Reilly is ſaid to have declared, that the Engliſh in Andaluſia eat more beef, and drink more wine, than the camp at San Roque; and I ſincerely believe it to be true.

The

The Spaniards tell us of many dangers, by flood and field, that we are to encounter in our journey.

The weather is at preſent good, and moderately cold. Robbers we need not fear, unleſs they rob by regiments.

An unexpected difficulty has occurred, which, you will do me the juſtice to believe, has been ſeldom experienced by me, and, probably, by few of your military acquaintance; I mean, the inconvenience of carrying our money. One hundred *peſo duro* is not more than twenty two pounds, a very ſmall ſum to pay the expences of two people to England; even to Liſbon it will ſcarcely be

 ſufficient.

ſufficient. Yet to carry the weight of an hundred dollars is an inconvenience in a journey of this kind. Gold cannot be procured; I have not ſeen one piece of gold in currency ſince I landed in Spain. To truſt the caſh with the baggage will not do; it is not poſſible to foreſee how far that may be ſeparated from us, or what perils it may be deſtined to meet with; a miſhap of this kind may place us in an aukward ſituation. What then is to be done? the hundred *peſo duro* muſt be divided between my ſervant and myſelf; and I will truſt to get money for paper at Liſbon, for which purpoſe I have provided a ſufficient recommendation. The caſh will alſo be like Æſop's burthen, hourly decreaſing, and there

is

is reaſon to apprehend that, before we reach Liſbon the burthen will not be troubleſome. This point ſettled, there is little left for me to do but to take leave of my good friends at Arcos; this will ſufficiently employ the time I have to ſtay.

Two months may be allowed for the journey and voyage; I hope, within that time, to have an opportunity of paying my reſpects to you in perſon;

and remain, moſt ſincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XIX.

DEAR SIR, St. Lucar Major, Dec. 8, 1780.

WE departed from Arcos on Tueſday the fifth inſtant, as had been determined. The baggage was placed on the mules; and we mounted the burros. A more whimſical proceſſion could never have entered into the imagination of Cervantes. Conceive between thirty and forty Britiſh officers, chiefly dreſſed in regimentals, with ſwords; and about half that number of ſervants, all mounted on aſſes, little better in their appearance, and not at all ſuperior in their qualities, to thoſe uſually found in England. To render the party ſtill

more extraordinary, it was graced by the preſence of one lady only, dreſſed in an Engliſh riding habit, and mounted on a handſome Spaniſh horſe; ſhe moved the *dux femina* of the expedition.

We left our Spaniſh friends with much gratitude for their kindneſs on every occaſion. I could not prevail on the good people, whoſe houſe I had taken up nearly two months, to receive the leaſt gratification in return. Nor was this a particular inſtance, for ſo diſintereſted have the Spaniards in general been that ſeveral of the young men, who, perhaps, otherwiſe would not eaſily have found a proviſion, were furniſhed, not only with lodging, but board alſo, by the families

in

in which they were billeted, without an idea of receiving payment.

Being now mounted, and obſerving the young ladies of the Spinoſa family at their lattice, I took my laſt leave of them: with that gentleneſs of manner, and ſuavity of ſpeech, which diſtinguiſh the women of this country, they wiſhed me a happy ſight of my friends, to whom they deſired their *complimenta*.

About ten the cavalcade moved; the baggage in the front. My eſtabliſhment conſiſted of two aſſes for myſelf and ſervant, and a mule to carry the bedding and baggage.

We

We apprehended rain from the appearance of the morning; but the day turned out clear and fine. We paſſed through an open country, chiefly in corn, and olive grounds; and, after a journey of four computed leagues, reached a ſmall town, called Cevizes. Near this place is a large piece of water, covered with an infinite number and great variety of aquatic birds; among theſe were many Flamingos, which I have never before met with in Europe; they are frequent in the Bahama iſlands, where they keep together in large flocks. As they draw up in a line along the ſhore, from their upright deportment and the red colour of their feathers, they have been miſtaken at a diſtance for a company of ſoldiers.

When

When ſalted, they paſs for tolerable good meat where better is not to be had.

We found, on our arrival at Cevizes, that we were to be quartered in private houſes during the journey; this will probably prove an agreeable circumſtance.

Beſides our old friend Malony, a Serjeant and three Dragoons accompany us as conductors: from the Serjeant each of us receive a billet, by virtue of which I was admitted into a houſe, but ſaw nothing of the inhabitants. Six of the party had agreed to form a meſs, and live together during the journey. We had provided cold meat at Arcos; and found

found wine ſufficient, ſo that we fared very well.

Several of the Cavalleros were diſmounted in this day's journey. The burros were in ſome inſtances ſo headſtrong and ungovernable, that it was thought prudent to leave them in the road, and adopt the pedeſtrian method of travelling. As the beaſts that brought us from Arcos were all to be returned, and new cavalry procured by preſſing. So much time was ſpent in this buſineſs, that it was paſt the middle of the day when we left Cevizes; and we did not reach Pallacio, our next ſtage, until late in the evening.

This

This day I procured a tolerable horſe. The country was very like that we paſſed through yeſterday, chiefly in corn-cultivation, with olive grounds and vineyards thinly ſcattered. No cottages, or habitations of any kind, except in a wretched hamlet. The diſtance from Cevizes is called four leagues; it may be fairly computed twenty miles.

The Spaniards diſtinguiſh their leagues by *larga* and *corta*, the long and the ſhort league; the long is a moſt unmerciful diſtance; the ſhort by no means what it promiſes; and when they ſay *y medio and half*, it is always to be feared, as the half in this inſtance is generally more than the whole.

Having

Having received my billet at Pallacio, I ſet out with my ſervant and baggage to find the houſe. The paper was ſhewn to ſeveral in the ſtreet; but they ſhook their heads, and ſaid, *No entendi*; "I do not underſtand." And of this you may always be aſſured, that a Spaniard, when you aſk a queſtion, will, if it is poſſible, ſay that he does not underſtand you; to ſave himſelf the trouble of giving an anſwer. Proceeding onwards, we approached a lad ſtanding at the door of a church, who ſeemed to belong to it: it was fairly to be preſumed that he could read; we therefore advanced towards him; he retreated into the church, and we followed him. The boy, having turned and ſeeing us in the church, began a violent outcry of

No Chriſtiano! No Chriſtiano! meaning, that we were not Chriſtians, and polluted the church. I was now ſufficiently provoked to have beat him heartily; but, as that was not the way to find the lodgings, we left him, and again came into the ſtreet, and with ſome difficulty procured a direction to the houſe.

On the door being opened, half a dozen young children, ſprawling on the floor, were preſented to my view; and I was given to underſtand that the houſe was an hoſpital for deſerted children. I need not tell you that I made no farther enquiry; and determined to return to the Poſada as the laſt reſort. In my way I met an Engliſh gentleman of my acquaintance,

tance, who, after having liſtened to the account of our misfortunes, told me that he had met with very civil people, and he had no doubt but they would willingly allow room for my bed in their houſe. This was worth the trial, and ſucceeded. My friend was well provided; and the ſecond day and night of our journey paſſed without farther accident.

On Thurſday, the ſeventh, we left Pallacio in good ſeaſon; and, about two o'clock, paſſed the road very near to Seville. The country about it is a plain of great extent, which appears to have been lately under water; the river, Guadalquiver, I am informed, not unfrequently inundates the lower parts of the city and its vicinity.

This day's journey has been chiefly through corn-lands. How can I ſufficiently expreſs to you the mortification I felt, to paſs within ſight of the gilded towers of the illuſtrious and renowned city of Seville, without being able to obtain permiſſion to enter it and view its wonders!

I alſo muſt deplore it on your account; as you have certainly miſſed two notable letters of deſcription at leaſt. Submitting, however, to our fate with a good grace, we journeyed on to the banks of the Guadalquiver; and, having croſſed that river in the ferry-boat, and travelled a long league, arrived ſafely at Coria. This is a pleaſant town, ſeated on the banks of the river; and this ſituation gives it trade and conſequence.

On the billets being made out, I obſerved one among them with *Seignor Don*, and a long name at the end of it: this ſtruck my fancy, and tempted me to offer the ſerjeant a *peſo duro* for it. He indulged me; and I haſtened away with my imaginary treaſure. On preſenting it at the houſe, I was civilly received, and ſoon diſcovered that this *Seignor Don* was no other than the Barber of the place. Before I proceed with my ſtory, it will be neceſſary to inform you, that a barber of a Spaniſh town is a perſon of no ſmall conſequence in his degree. This man introduced me to his ſiſters, not at all bad-looking *Senoras*. Some tolerably-good potted fiſh and wine were brought forth; and the party became ſociable and pleaſant.

Theſe people had been frequently at Seville, and ſeen more of ſtrangers and their cuſtoms than the inhabitants of the inland country have the opportunity to do. They had alſo often met with Engliſh people, who occaſionally land at this place, as their veſſels paſs the river to take in lemons and oranges at Seville.

There is no doubt that the Spaniards are better affected to the Engliſh than to any other nation. It was with ſome difficulty that I could get away from this party to take my dinner, which, notwithſtanding my attachment to the former, I would not willingly have miſſed, as we fared this day better than uſual. Partridges, and two or three ſort of water-fowl, had

had been added to the general dinner. I found the family of the hoſpitable barber aſſembled at my return, with the addition of ſome female acquaintance, and ſat with them to a very late hour; from the general cuſtom of the *Sieſta*, the Spaniards are induced to ſit very late.

I do not know any place where a man of ſmall income, that wiſhes to live independent, can fix himſelf more pleaſantly and comfortably than at Coria. Its ſituation is advantageous, on the banks of the famous river Guadalquiver; the country is abundantly and cheaply ſupplied with the neceſſaries of life. Game, fiſh, and water-fowl, are in the greateſt variety, and may be had for next to nothing.

The wine and fruit are excellent. In point of climate, perhaps, the moſt favoured ſpot of the world in Winter; in Summer, hot, but its heat ſoftened, and moderated by the river-breeze. You may add to this, if it is thought an advantage, that it is within a morning's ride of the firſt city in Spain.

An active man, fond of fiſhing and ſhooting, may ſupport a family here at a leſs expence than can be eaſily imagined.

The Guadalquiver, after having paſſed the cities of Cordova and Seville, falls into the ſea at St. Lucar, a port between this place and Cadiz.

On

On Friday, the eighth, we left Coria; and, having travelled ſix leagues, through a corn country, intermixed with woods of the Ilex and Cheſnut, came to St. Lucar Major.

As I have determined to ſend this very long letter from this place, I ſhall now cloſe it, with aſſuring you that, as I draw towards home, the hope of ſeeing my friends gives me ſincere pleaſure; and that I always feel moſt faithfully,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XX.

DEAR SIR, Villa Raſſa, Dec. 10, 1780.

I PROCEED in the account of our peregrination by acquainting you that San Lucar Major is an inland town, large and conſiderable: it is thus called, to diſtinguiſh it from the port of San Lucar, which is alſo in the province of Andaluſia. Sorry am I, that I cannot in all reſpects bear witneſs to the urbanity of its inhabitants; for, as we were collected together in the ſtreet to receive the billets, ſome of them thought proper to amuſe themſelves by throwing ſtones at us. The ſight of a piſtol, however, ſoon brought them to better manners. The

The appearance of the fair Heroine of our party has raiſed curioſity and aſtoniſhment in the inhabitants of the towns, and villages, through which our route has been; and no wonder, when the very different figure a Spaniſh woman makes, mounted on an aukward kind of pack-ſaddle, on the back of a jack-aſs, is conſidered. But at San Lucar the whole town was in an uproar; and, after the lady had alighted at her lodgings, the houſe was filled with ſpectators; nor could the apartment be cleared of them by any fair means. This occaſioned an unpleaſant circumſtance: a young getleman of our party, after having tried in vain to ſend the multitude away, was provoked by the inſolence of a Spaniard, who refuſed to leave the

the room, to make a ſtroke at him with his couteau, which, if it had taken place, would have effectually in him prevented all future curioſity. The fellow, heartily frighted, ran to a magiſtrate, and made his complaint, and the matter was not ſettled without ſome trouble.

Saturday Morning.

WE have been at a conſiderable wine cellar, and filled ſome borachos of excellent wine, of the Xeres kind: theſe borachos are goat-ſkins in the hair, ſewed and paid in ſuch a manner as to contain the wine without leakage; they are very convenient for carriage. We have alſo bought two turkeys, ſome pork, and two *ceſa Hollanda*,

Hollanda, Dutch cheeſes, very good. A mule has been added to the eſtabliſhment, for the conveyance of theſe things.

We feel the happy effects of experience daily: inſtead of ſtarving on eggs, or worſe diet, we live like princes; whilſt an unfortunate ſtranger that travels through this part of the country, depending on the *poſadas*, would find much difficulty to procure the bare neceſſaries of life. Some waggons, or rather wains, drawn by oxen, were found to convey the baggage on this day's journey. The party, being all mounted on horſes or mules, arrived at Mancanilla in good order; the diſtance ſix leagues, through a country partly in corn, and partly uncultivated.

On

On theſe extenſive wilds we ſaw a very large flock of ſheep, whoſe wool was of a dark ruſſet colour. Some foxes were alſo obſerved, of the grey kind; and wild hogs: theſe are ſtrong proofs of a thinly-inhabited country.

We have this day paſſed one of thoſe ſmall wooden croſſes, which denote the place where a robbery and murder has been committed. Theſe are *opprobria* to the Spaniſh police, and bugbears to the inquiſitive traveller. Theſe have been frequently adduced to prove the danger of travelling through this country; but, as theſe croſſes are renewed and rendered perpetual by the people of the neighbourhood, the circumſtance pro-

probably happened ſo long ſince, that, though the memorial remains, the remembrance of it is loſt.

Our friend Captain M. has met with a diſappointment here. Enquiring where his lodging was, of a Frenchman that kept the Poſada, he was told, "that the daughter of the gentleman that lived in the houſe was allowed to be the moſt beautiful woman in Andaluſia." After we had dined, I went with him, in the hope of beholding this paragon. The houſe was ſoon found; and, after ſpending ſome time at the door, we were told by the neighbours, that the gentleman, not chuſing to receive Engliſh company, had removed, with his fair daughter, and all his ſervants, into

into the country that morning. Our friend was of courſe obliged to ſeek a lodging in the Frenchman's Poſada.

Mancanilla is a clean, well-inhabited town. On Sunday the tenth we reached Villa Raſſa.

The road from Mancanilla to this town is bad, and apparently unfrequented; the country full of corn, with pleaſant woods, of the green oak, the diſtance ſeven computed leagues. Here it was my good fortune to be entertained by a rich Hidalgo with great kindneſs and reſpect. When I came to his houſe, with my ſervant, we were ſhewn into a room in which was a very good fire, a rare ſight in this part of the world; but now

now not at all unpleaſant. The gentleman, with two ladies his ſiſters, was in this room; and, after the firſt queſtion, which a Spaniſh woman always aſks, "Are you married?" and a printed liſt of the ſhips taken on the ninth of Auguſt having been produced, that I might point out that in which I ſailed; the gentleman offered refreſhment. As I had been fatigued by daily journeys for the ſix laſt days, I felt more inclined to accept his offer than to go out for my dinner. In a ſhort time I followed the gentleman into an exceeding good room, where a table was well covered with meat, olives, raiſins, grapes, and ſeveral other things, with ſome of which I was unacquainted. Here my entertainer left

me: it being now near five o'clock, he had probably dined at a much earlier hour; and I ſat down to this feaſt, attended by two girls, about fifteen, very handſome, and neatly dreſſed. Wine and *liqueur* in ſmall decanters were placed on the table; and, when theſe things were removed, as my bed, according to the cuſtom, was in a receſs within the room, I ſoon retired to it, and had a very comfortable night's reſt. This morning I waited on Don Hippolito and his good ſiſters. My chocolate has been ſerved with the ſame ceremony that my dinner was yeſterday. This is by many degrees the moſt handſome entertainment that I have ſeen, or heard to have been given, in a Spaniſh houſe. Indeed, there is

reaſon

reaſon to believe, that the gentry of this country are not generally rich: for, though we have frequently ſeen in the towns through which we have paſſed the white front of the houſe of an Hidalgo covered with the red letters of his very long name, with *Se'nor Don* before it; when you enter it, neither the ſtate of the building, the quality of the furniture, nor the mode of living, confirm the opulence of the owner.

My friends were pleaſed to meet me this morning; as they apprehended, by not ſeeing me at the meſs, that I might be ill, not ſuſpecting the handſome entertainment that I had found at home.

As we approach the frontiers, we again think of being our own maſters. If we manage as well for ourſelves as the Spaniards now do for us, we ſhall have little reaſon to complain.

As the cavalry are ready to proceed to Triguera, the next ſtage, I ſhall finiſh this letter, as I intend to leave it with Don Hippolito, who has politely offered to diſpatch it.

"May you go with God, *Se'nor*;" to whom I commend you.

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

DEAR SIR, Ayamonte, Dec. 13, 1780.

WE arrived at Triguera without accident; but the roads were ſo very bad that the baggage did not come up till the next morning. Indeed there was ſeldom the appearance of a public road in this day's journey.

The country is generally uncultivated; covered with aromatic plants. Wild thyme, marjoram, roſemary, and lavender, every where abound.

The dragoon conductors miſſed the road; but, fortunately ſeeing a country man, they hailed him with *ho*

paiſano; and preſſed him as their guide to Triguera. The military here aſſume great power; and their orders are implicitly obeyed by the people of the country.

Of Triguera little can be written. We brought with us all that we had occaſion for, except bread; but that was not procured, in ſufficient quantity, without ſome difficulty, and the interference of the magiſtrates of the town.

The weather continues extremely favourable, much more ſo than could have been expected at this, the rainy, ſeaſon of the year. The mornings are froſty in a ſlight degree;

gree; at noon the ſun reſumes great part of its influence and power.

The twelfth we continued our journey, through waſtes and deſerts wild; here and there interſperſed with patches of corn, and woods of green oak-trees. In the cultivated parts the plough goes through the whole, leaving nothing like a road.

The country between the towns is entirely without inhabitants. A great proportion of theſe lands would probably bear corn, but there is neither encouragement nor market for it: it might, ſurely, be carried, without any great expence, to Ayamonte, the neareſt port, and be thence ſent coaſtwiſe to thoſe parts of Spain

which now import corn from foreign countries; but the inhabitants of theſe diſtricts look no farther than to their immediate wants, and theſe are eaſily ſupplied.

This muſt be an excellent ſporting country, as nearly the whole of it is left to the dominion of the beaſts of the field and the fowls of the air; and it may fairly be preſumed that a conſiderable ſhare of the produce of the cultivated parts muſt alſo fall to their lot.

Late in the afternoon we came to Cartcia, having travelled ſeven long leagues. At this place I procured a decent apartment; and, from the *ſumpter mule*, a tolerable dinner was provided.

provided. Thoſe of our party who had acted without care and foreſight were badly off here.

I have lately found it neceſſary to make an intereſt with the Spaniſh ſerjeant who diſtributes the billets: a *peſo duro*, properly applied, has ſometimes thrown me into a good houſe, when an indifferent one would perhaps otherwiſe have fallen to my lot.

The ſtate of my health, which is yet but weak, though daily mending, will be a ſufficient excuſe to you for this proof of attention to myſelf.

On the thirteenth we reached Ayamonte, after a journey of five leagues, through

through a country that bears nearly the ſame aſpect, until you approach the city, when the land is conſiderably in corn, and the ſea opens to the view.

Ayamonte is the frontier town of Spain in this part. It is ſituated at the mouth of the river Guadiana, oppoſite to Villa Real in Portugal; the Portugueſe dominions being divided from it by that river. It is really a conſiderable city, well built, extenſive, and populous. It has a fortification, and a regiment of foot in garriſon. Of the military appearance of this regiment the leſs that is ſaid the better.

Ayamonte,

Ayamonte, from its ſituation at the mouth of a conſiderable navigable river, ſeems deſigned to be the ſeat of trade and commerce; but theſe advantages have been neglected, ſo that its ſhipping conſiſts of ſome ſmall craft only.

The Guadiana is about three miles wide at this place. This river riſes in La Mancha; and, after paſſing through the Spaniſh province of Eſtremadura, divides the province of Alentejo, in Portugal, from the kingdom of Algarve, and diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at this place.

I have been told, that immenſe quantities of pilchards frequent theſe coaſts; and that there is a probability of

of carrying on a fiſhery here to great advantage; but the baneful influence of the climate prevents all exertions of induſtry.

There is an apartment in a very good houſe aſſigned to my uſe here; but, as it is at a conſiderable diſtance from the river, and as the boats that are intended for our conveyance to the Portugal ſide are ordered to be ready at an early hour in the morning, I have determined to pitch my bedſtead in the billiard-room of the tavern; ſeveral of our party are of the ſame opinion, and intend to make the billiard table their bed for the night. To-morrow we paſs the Guadiana, and every one becomes his own maſter. No more friendly bil-

lets, or dragoon conductors. To-morrow we alſo take leave of our friend enſign Malony: the trouble that he has had with us deſerves a better recompence than he will probably receive from the Spaniſh government; we have, therefore, collected ſome *peſo duro* for him, more than enough to pay his expences to his quarters, which he has very ſenſibly taken without ceremony.

If you, or any of your friends, actuated by the rage for rambling, or compelled by buſineſs, ſhould viſit the Southern parts of Spain, accept the following inſtructions.—*Experto, crede.*

As

As your route will of courſe be from Liſbon, you muſt be at that place before the end of the month of September, and leave it early in October. I point out this ſeaſon to you, not only that you may avoid the ſummer heat of this climate, which cauſes more languor and faintneſs, and is quite as burning and intolerable as that of the Weſt India iſlands, but alſo on account of the ſupply of proviſions that may be procured at that ſeaſon of the year: the beſt pork in the world, good turkeys, and milk in abundance, may then be had. Nothing of this kind, or half ſo good, can be got in ſummer. Add to this, the danger you are in hourly of being laid up by fevers, in places where neither medical nor any other

aſſiſtance

aſſiſtance can be found. Your field bedſtead muſt be made in England, of the lighteſt kind, furniſhed with ſheets and warm blankets, for, although the days are hot, the nights are ſometimes ſeverely cold at this ſeaſon; an additional mule will be neceſſary to carry theſe, your own baggage, and that of your ſervant; this will increaſe your expence about two ſhillings a day.

Should it be your ill fortune to ſtop at a poſada of the worſt kind; and, God knows, ſome of them are bad enough, you are unlucky indeed if you cannot find a dry corner in it, in which a warm and comfortable bed may be prepared for you in five minutes. Never neglect to lay in a good

ſtock

ſtock of proviſion and wine, when an opportunity offers of procuring them; the weight of the proviſions, and two or three borachos of wine, on the mule, is next to nothing, the expence inconſiderable.

In almoſt every town you will find a Frenchman who keeps the poſada. Theſe fellows were all born cooks; and, if you find them meat, you may be certain of having a good dinner. In one of the towns we lately paſſed through, a very large turkey was ſent to the Frenchman, that kept the poſada, to be dreſſed; as we intended to take it, that it might ſerve as part of our dinner the next day. Unluckily he was not directed to roaſt it: the conſequence was, that

that, when the turkey was ſent for the next morning, it was found in the ſtew-pan full of gravy, and cut into an hundred pieces. This certainly was a dilemma. Somebody propoſed to pack it in an earthenware-pot. The plan was adopted. The next day it was ſerved at dinner, and univerſally allowed to be the beſt diſh that we had ever taſted. Above all things, let me perſuade you to avoid that urgency of haſte which diſtinguiſhes our countrymen. I am aware, that an Engliſhman cannot travel with comfort to himſelf at a leſs rate than ten miles an hour, if by night alſo ſo much the better. But the Spaniards and their mules are of a very different order; *poco*, *poco*; "ſlowly, ſlowly," is their favourite

phraſe, and continually in uſe. In ſhort, the only advantages of precipitation in this country are, to be ſtarved or left in the road.

This advice is ſhort and ſimple; but quite ſufficient to render a journey through this country as pleaſant as a reaſonable man can expect to find it.

Two gentlemen of the party, but not of the regiment, with Captain M. and myſelf, have agreed to travel together to Liſbon. There are three ſervants with us, ſo that we muſter ſtrong enough.

Some of our lads ſeem to think that, as ſoon as they reach Portugal,

they have nothing to do, but to call for bottles of port-wine, and that all things will go well. The Spaniards are of a different opinion; they ſay that the Portugueſe are *mucho picarro*, "great rogues;" that their country is a deſert, in which nothing can be procured; that a bad Spaniard is a good Portugueſe; and various ſayings of this ſort, by which neighbouring nations generally ſhew their regard for each other. Serioufly, however, from what I have read, and what I have heard, my hopes in this journey are by no means ſanguine. Bleſſed are they that expect nothing.

As to-morrow I ſhall leave the Spaniſh territory, probably never again to enter it, it is a debt of juſ-

tice to declare the ſenſe I feel of the candid and hoſpitable treatment we have generally received from theſe people.

The generous conduct of the Captains of the Navy to their priſoners might have been expected from the character the Spaniards of ſuperior rank have juſtly and univerſally obtained. The inſtance of Don Juan Moreno, which I have already mentioned to you, and ſome others that have ſince come to my knowledge, have ſcarcely been exceeded in more romantic ages. The ſame friendly attention has been ſhewn by the people of every degree. The merchants of Cadiz advanced conſiderable ſums of money to individuals, on their

their bills, without knowledge of the parties, or any recommendation: the almoſt general civility experienced by thoſe who were billeted in their houſes, not only in Arcos, but alſo during the journey, will ſpeak ſtrongly in favour of the natural politeneſs of the Andaluſians.

I know that it has been the cuſtom of travellers to ſpeak of the people of this province as an indolent race of beings, who would rather ſtarve than labour. It may be ſo; but this is not the caſe with the Andaluſians only, but of all other inhabitants of hot climates. See the deſcendant of the induſtrious Engliſhman at Madraſs or Jamaica; or of the more induſtrious Hollander at Ba-

tavia or Surinam, and tell me whether they are more inclined to active exertions than the Spaniard of Andaluſia. Mr. Baretti defends theſe laſt, on the principle that no one ſhould be called idle who has nothing to do; that it is the fault of their governors who do not provide for them the means of employment. It is alſo his opinion, that no prudent man will work if he can manage to live without labour. The Spaniard is in a great meaſure enabled to do this from habits of temperance and frugality; his wants are few, and theſe are cheaply ſupplied from the abundance and variety of the fruits and eſculent plants which the country ſupplies; but he has not the option with reſpect to employment. When the

the grapes and olives are gathered, and preſſed, when the ground is ploughed, the ſeed ſown, and the harveſt reaped and gathered, the labour of the year is at an end. From February to October, and ſometimes for a much longer time, no rain falls; during this ſeaſon the country is expoſed to a burning ſun, and the ground hot and parched as an African deſert.

The herds and flocks are removed to a more happy ſoil; and in a day's journey not a drop of water, or a blade of graſs, can be found, except in the *huertas*, or garden-grounds, where water can be introduced. It ſurely implies a want of knowledge, or experience, to talk of the advan-

tages of labour or manufactures in ſuch a country.

Whilſt this remiſſion of labour by nature continues, the labourer and his family muſt be ſupported.

The produce of the eſtates of the Clergy, and the benevolence of that part of the Laity who are poſſeſſed of property, ſupply a fund for this purpoſe. Very conſiderable eſtates are in the poſſeſſion of the convents, and alſo of the ſecular clergy. The income of theſe is generally applied to the uſe of the poor. Without this reſource the country muſt be depopulated. It has been aſſerted, that the charity of the Clergy is the chief cauſe of the great number of unemployed

ployed people; and that, without their assistance, the poor must work.

The facts that I have stated evidently prove the fault to be in the climate, not in the people; and if the plan, humanely recommended, of applying the property of the Clergy to more useful purposes, as it is said may be done, is adopted, the people would indeed be provided for, not by additional labour, but actual starvation.

The manners of these Spaniards with whom we have associated are pleasant and civil; from local circumstances much information cannot be expected from them. The women are gentle and amiable in their carriage,

riage, modeſt and chearful in their converſation.

I have read, in ſeveral books, accounts of the vitiated conduct of the Spaniſh women in general; but very different indeed is that of the women of Andaluſia, or the Andaluſian women are the greateſt hypocrites on earth: their cuſtoms are ſo extremely modeſt, that they will not allow you to touch the hand of a female. And, as it has not always been found eaſy to induce an Engliſhman to confine himſelf to theſe reſtrictions, we have frequently incurred the mild reproof of, "Speak to me; do not touch "me."

They

They are peculiarly diſtinguiſhed by kindneſs and attachment to their ſervants and dependants.

In their religious character the Spaniards have been ſubject to much obloquy. Every word has been applied to them that could be brought to expreſs contempt for their obſervance of Religion, and their reſpect to its miniſters. I have ever had reaſon to hold thoſe in my better opinion that are zealous overmuch, rather than thoſe that affect to live without regard to Religion. As theſe people have time unemployed, it cannot be ſpent in a more inoffenſive manner, at leaſt, than by an attendance on religious ceremonies; nor, whilſt the Clergy muſt be conſidered

not

not only their guides in ſpiritual concerns, but alſo their friends and benefactors in temporal matters, ſhall I blame their gratitude and attachment.

The uncontrolled power of the Inquiſition has certainly its influence, and cauſes a more ſtrict attention to religious ceremonies than otherwiſe would be found.

A childiſh kind of vanity may be obſerved among thoſe people; an inſtance of which I have mentioned, in the faſhion they uſe of painting their names in large letters, with *Signor Don* before them, on the fronts of the houſes; but there is nothing arrogant or overbearing in them. When

When I received a billet, I uſed, firſt for curioſity, and afterwards amuſement, to aſk one of the ſtanders-by, who were generally numerous, *Eſta bueno caſa, Se'nor?* "Is this a good houſe, Sir?" If the houſe happened to be of the indifferent order, the anſwer was, with a nod, *Bueno, Se'nor*; "Good, Sir." If, of the better ſort, *Mag bueno, Se'nor*; *grande caſa, mucho grande*; "a very good houſe, Sir; grand, very grand." But, when we came to inſpect the manſion, of which this great character had been given, it was generally found to contain little deſerving it.

The Spaniards have fewer bad qualities than any other people that I

have had the opportunity to know; and thoſe that are good and great are rarely found in any country. We are the children of chance and habit, and leſs merit would probably be found due on enquiry, on account of thoſe qualities, than the generality of their poſſeſſors think proper to aſſume.

To Spain, then, we bid adieu.—The firſt good quarter I find in Portugal you ſhall again hear from me. In the mean time believe me,

Sincerely yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

DEAR SIR, Evera, Dec. 18, 1780.

ON the fourteenth we croſſed the river Guadiana, in a barge or lighter, and landed at Villa Real, in the province of Alentejo, in the kingdom of Portugal. This little town, or city I believe it is called, is by no means an unpromiſing introdnction to Portugal: the houſes are uniformly and neatly built; being painted white, with green windows, it has a pleaſant appearance. This place has been lately rebuilt, under the royal direction, with the intention, I am informed, of eſtabliſhing a fiſhery on the coaſt, which has not,

in

in any degree, ſucceeded, for want of money, induſtry, and ſkill. It has alſo been honoured with the name of *Villa Real*; with its former denomination I am unacquainted.

We waited on the Commanding Officer, who received us with civility; and our next object was, to diſcover the beſt method of proceeding on our journey to Liſbon. Two plans were pointed out to us; the firſt, to go to Faro, by land, no great diſtance; and from thence, by ſea, to Liſbon. The other, to go up the river Guadiana in a boat to Mertola; and, by land, to Liſbon. The latter ſeemed to be the moſt eligible.

There

A gentleman of our party who has been accuſtomed to the rapid movement of Engliſh travelling, ſeemed inclined to ſacrifice all other convenience to diſpatch; at his inſtance, a boat was hired, to proceed immediately. In this row-boat, manned by four Spaniards, to whom we paid ten *peſo duro*, we embarked at four o'clock in the afternoon, in ſo great haſte, that we had no opportunity to procure refreſhment to ſerve during the paſſage, although we had every reaſon to think that we ſhould paſs the night in the boat—no very pleaſant conſideration.

Our fellow travellers from Arcos determined to try the rout by Faro, which will prove a much cheaper

method of travelling; and, if it is worſe than we have experienced, it muſt be bad indeed.

As the day cloſed, it became exceedingly cold; the dew, or hoar-froſt, fell ſo faſt, that, as there was no ſhelter in the boat, our ſituation became very unpleaſant, and I was glad to get a blanket from the baggage to cover myſelf.

About ten o'clock at night the Spaniards put the boat aſhore, and we landed, on account of the tide being adverſe to our progreſs.

Having walked about a quarter of a mile, through a wood, we reached a miſerable hut, in which we ſaw ſeveral

ſeveral men and one woman, when the ſmoke would allow us to diſtinguiſh objects; theſe were the worſt-looking people I had ever ſeen: a fellow, dreſſed in a ragged ſoldier's coat, baffled every attempt at deſcription. The hut itſelf was the vileſt of human habitations that I have met with in any country. As two of the ſervants were left in the boat, to take care of the baggage, one only remained with us, when, looking on the groupe about us, we conſidered the time of night, and the ſituation in which we were, we certainly had reaſon to think this haſty method of proceeding not the beſt that might have been adopted. It was, however, too late to retrieve; and, as our dinner at Villa Real had been very ſlight,

refreſhment was the more neceſſary. Having mentioned this to one of the Portugueſe, he took from the ſleeve of a very dirty ſhirt a dead fowl, which he ſold at a reaſonable price. This was of little uſe among ſeven of us, to ſay nothing of the Spaniſh watermen. One of the Portugueſe was diſpatched for more fowls, and ſoon returned with three that were alive; theſe were alſo bought, but at an advanced price, and on remonſtrating with the Portugueſe who ſold the firſt fowl, he ſaid, that if it had not died by accident, he would not have parted with it for double the ſum. We were not in a ſituation to pay attention to nice diſtinctions. The fowls were all ſtewed together; ſome wretched wine was procured, and

and the repaſt ended only when the laſt bone was picked.

In this wretched habitation I acquired ſome uſeful knowledge. As the confined ſmoke of the green wood fire was intolerably painful to the eyes, I obſerved that the inhabitants of the hut placed their faces very near the fire; and, making the experiment, I found, that the inconvenience was ſcarcely felt when in that ſituation.

About two o'clock in the morning we reſumed our places in the boat; which, uncomfortable as they were, we ſeemed pleaſed to have regained.

By the account of the watermen we expected to reach Mertola at ſeven

o'clock in the morning; but eight, nine, and ten, came, and Mertola did not appear.

The land on both ſides of the river is barren, and deſolate to an uncommon degree. The river became wider, as we advanced, and the wind increaſing, the agitation of the water rendered the paſſage rough and unpleaſant. It was, therefore, not without ſatisfaction that we deſcried Mertola at eleven o'clock; and ſoon after landed.

The inn was diſcovered; I believe the Portugueſe word for it is *eſtallage*. This was a houſe in a wretched ſtate of repair: there were, however, partridges to be had in abundance; and wine,

wine, ſuch as it was, neither red nor white, bad in colour, and worſe in quality.

We had ſcarcely finiſhed our repaſt, when a ragged ſoldier was introduced, with a meſſage from the Governor, who deſired to ſee us. On his Excellency we ſoon after waited; and were received, in a tolerably neat, ſmall houſe, with great civility. He produced a paper, written in the Portugueze language, and read it; which imported, that their Majeſties of Portugal and Algarve had been acquainted, that ſeveral Britiſh officers, in their road from Spain to Great Britain, would probably paſs through the dominions of Portugal; they had therefore com-

manded, that ſuch officers ſhould be received and treated in the moſt friendly manner, and every poſſible accommodation and aſſiſtance ſhould be afforded to them during their reſidence in that kingdom. This was the ſubſtance of the paper; which having been read, the Governor aſked in what manner he could ſerve us. After a conſultation, it was deſired that two calaſhes might be hired for our accommodation, and mules ſufficient for our ſervants, and the conveyance of the baggage to Liſbon. Two calaſhes were not to be found in Mertola; the owner of that which the city afforded was ſent for, and ſoon made his appearance; he was a fat, ſulky-looking fellow; and, being acquainted

acquainted with the matter, abſolutely refuſed to hire his calaſh.

The Governor, firſt mildly, and afterwards warmly, overruled his objections, by aſſuring him, that theſe were the commands of their Majeſties, and he muſt go. He then demanded forty-ſix *peſo duro* for the journey. This ſum was immediately paid to him, and he received it with a very bad grace. It was now determined that Mr. H. and I (as an invalid) ſhould occupy the calaſh; that Captain M. and the other gentleman of our party, ſhould ride on mules; three mules were alſo hired for the ſervants; and ſix for the conveyance of the baggage. Our cavalry conſiſted of twelve mules, beſides the calaſh,

calaſh, and altogether formed a ſtrong party.

We were now about to take our leave of the Governor, when a new difficulty aroſe. The rage for expedition, which the adventures of the laſt night had not been ſufficient to depreſs, induced the gentleman who was to be my companion in the calaſh to inſiſt on ſetting out as ſoon as poſſible that afternoon. This, not only the calaſh-driver, but alſo the muleteers, refuſed to do; and, as the diſtance to Beja, the firſt ſuppoſed ſtage, was nominally eight leagues, and probably between thirty and forty miles, there certainly was imprudence in the attempt. Mr. H. however, perſiſted in his reſolution; and the

royal

royal edict, with the authority of the Governor, carried ſo much weight that the calaſh-driver and muletteers were obliged to ſubmit; and, at four in the afternoon, we departed from Mertola, moſt of the party, both Engliſh and Portugueſe, in very bad humour.

Mertola is a very antient city, was a Roman ſtation, and called *Julia Myrtilis*; it was alſo long in the poſſeſſion of the Moors, and, from its preſent appearance, ſeems to have undergone little alteration, and has certainly received no improvement ſince it was ſurrendered to its preſent maſters. It is ſeated cloſe to the Guadiana; the country on both ſides

that

that river is in the territory of Portugal.

There are ſome olive plantations in the neighbourhood. The corn country about it is inconſiderable, hardly ſufficient, I ſhould imagine, for the neceſſary ſupply of the inhabitants. I could not but obſerve the ſtrength and beauty of the mules that we had hired at Mertola. Thoſe in the calaſh were near ſixteen hands high; thoſe hired to carry the gentlemen and for the ſervants and baggage were not ſo tall, but very ſtrong and handſome. I have never ſeen in Spain animals of this claſs equal to them in any reſpect.

As I was by this time well convinced, by the ſlow movement of our

our carriage, that the journey muſt continue through the night, I ſubmitted to my fate, and reſolved to ſleep away as much of it as I could; but we had ſcarcely travelled an hour when the calaſh ſtopped at a building like a barn, and, as we could diſtinguiſh, being now nearly dark, in the wildeſt deſert that can be imagined. Here it was ſuppoſed that the driver intended to bait. The baggage mules, with the ſervants, ſoon after came up, and halted alſo. But we were ſoon undeceived; the muletteers began to unload the mules; and we were given to underſtand, that they intended to remain in this place for the night. Whatever was urged to the contrary had not the leaſt effect, and our worthy driver did not ſeem

to pay the leaſt attention to what we ſaid; the ſmall diſtance that we had travelled having rendered the royal edict, and the governor of Mertola's authority, of no uſe to us.

The baggage was depoſited in the barn-looking building that I had noticed, which, we were now informed, was a *venta*, or public building, for the reception of travellers, where better accommodations were not to be procured; and that it was deſtined to be the place of our reſidence for the night. In this *venta*, I hope that you will not inſiſt on my giving it any other name, for I have not heard that it has any, the whole furniture conſiſted of a long deal table and two benches; there was neither fire-place nor inhabitant.

After

After the muletteers had unloaded their beaſts, they led them away, without taking any notice of us, or ſeeming to think that we were any part of their concern.

A ſervant followed them, who ſoon returned with an account that they had gone into a houſe at ſome diſtance. We followed, and came to a farm-houſe; to the owner of which, probably, the *venta* belongs. Here, with ſome difficulty, we got ſalted pork and bread, and ſome wretched wine; when we had devoured all the eatables that could be found we returned to the *venta*. It was impoſſible for any perſon who had been accuſtomed to hear of the frequent murders and robberies that are perpetrated

petrated in this country not to bring the idea of danger home to our preſent ſituation, and to conſider this ſpot as calculated for ſuch dark deeds; it was alſo an unlucky circumſtance that our friends, Captain M. and his companion, had rode on without any attendant; ſo that our ſtrength was divided, and we had reaſon to be apprehenſive for their ſafety.

We made the beſt diſpoſition in our power; the ſervants were armed, and agreed to watch alternately. The door of the *venta* was fortified with the baggage.

After theſe precautions were taken, the beds were ſpread on the deal table. I ſoon fell aſleep, and was not at all

all diſſatisfied to ſee that it was day-light when I awoke in the morning.

The calaſh-man and mule-drivers were ſoon with us; and we departed from this execrable *venta*, which I ſhall not ſoon forget.

The morning was remarkably fine, with froſt ſufficiently ſharp to harden the road. I walked ſeveral miles, through a country which, though actually a deſert, was extremely pleaſant. The myrtle, and the ſhrub which we call Portugal laurel, were to be ſeen all around us. The ground was covered with aromatic plants; and the cork-tree and ever-green oak ſeemed to be ſcattered about by nature or by accident. Neither men

nor animals, nor marks of habitation, were to be found. The road is very good, and has been lately made, by the royal command, from Mertola to the Tagus, at a very great expence: it muſt long continue in order, as the country is dry, with a gravelly ſoil, and it is not likely to be broken by the preſſure of heavy carriages.

After midday we arrived at Beja, and were happy to ſee our friends, who came out of the city to meet us. After they had left us laſt evening, they rode on, and came to Beja about two o'clock in the morning without accident. Here they certainly would have wandered about the ſtreets until day-light, had they not met with an honeſt

honeſt ſoldier, who knocked up the people of the eſtallage, and procured them lodging.

Our friends conducted us to this eſtallage, which is a moſt wretched place. The floor of the room that we were in was perforated by age in ſuch a manner, that it was a ſervice of ſome danger to walk over it; and this was the beſt apartment of the houſe. With all our exertions, jointly and ſeverally, a ſufficient dinner could ſcarcely be procured.

This city is alſo of high antiquity, has been a Roman ſtation, and diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Pax Julia*. Some remains of Roman architecture are ſtill to be found. Its diſtance from

the Guadiana is about two leagues. The land in the vicinity of the city produces corn and olives. The cultivation is to no great extent.

This province has been more than once the ſeat of war between Spain and Portugal; and it has been conſidered as a matter not eaſily accounted for, that the Spaniards have not conquered it. Poverty has probably been in this inſtance the means of its preſervation; for there is not ſubſiſtence to be found in this country for any body of men worthy to be called an army, even for a ſingle day; and though the Spaniards poſſibly may be better ſoldiers than the Portugueſe, they have long ſince loſt that character of activity and enterprize which they

they formerly poſſeſſed. Should hereafter any attempt be made againſt this province, the Portugueſe will probably have reaſon to repent that they have made a good road through it, as it will greatly facilitate the progreſs of an enemy.

On the ſixteenth, early in the morning, we left Beja; and, at a public houſe about two leagues from it, endeavoured to get ſomething for breakfaſt; but in vain, until I recollected that there was ſome chocolate with my baggage. This was found, with ſome difficulty. It was then neceſſary to preſs a kettle, and boil it ourſelves. At our departure, we offered the people ſome money for the uſe we had made of their

houſe; but, as it was Spaniſh, they ſaid they did not underſtand it, and refuſed to receive it.

In our journey of this day, we again halted; and, ſeeing a pot on the fire, enquired its contents. Theſe were found to be Baccalao, or Newfoundland cod-fiſh; this, and the dried kidney-beans, or caravanſes, mixed with oil and garlick, conſtitute nearly the whole diet of the people of this province.

It was after night when we came to Evora, although we had ſet out very early in the morning, and the diſtance eight computed leagues. Nor will you be ſurprized at this, as the mules have walked every inch of the road

road from Mertola; nor can any thing induce either them or their driver to alter their pace. Never, ſurely, was there ſo ſevere a tax on the patience of a precipitate traveller. My companion feels it accordingly.

I have walked out this morning to view this famous city of Evora. It is really a conſiderable place, has a fortification, and ſome ſoldiers to defend it. It contains a cathedral, being the ſee of an archbiſhop, and ſeveral other churches; and is accounted, in point of population, the ſecond city of Portugal.

There is a conſiderable extent of corn-country in the neighbourhood of Evora; and alſo olive-plantations,

vineyards, and garden-grounds. But, though the diſtance from Liſbon is now no more than twenty-three computed leagues, neither the proviſion nor wine are at all improved.

I ſhall take leave of the antient city of Evora, whoſe claſſical name was *Libertas Julia*, by obſerving, that it is, like almoſt every thing elſe in this country, rather famous for what it has been, than what it is; that it diſcovers ſtrong marks of age, poverty, and decay. Except the little town of Villa Real, and the new road, there is nothing like improvement in the province of Alentijo; every thing ſeems to decline rapidly, and to paſs from bad to worſe. That this may not be our caſe, is the ſincere wiſh of

Your very faithful ſervant,

R. C.

LETTER XXIII.

DEAR SIR, Liſbon. Dec. 21, 1780.

WE reached Liſbon yeſterday, to my great ſatisfaction; as I had been for ſome time heartily tired of the journey through Portugal.

As no variety occurred during the remainder of the journey, the ſame deſert country, ragged villages, ruinous eſtallages, no meat, and abominable wine; I ſhall not trouble you with an account of it, but bring you to Aldea Gallega, a little town on the Tagus, oppoſite to Liſbon, where we very willingly diſcharged our ſulky

ſulky calaſh-driver, who, I verily believe, has not ſpoken a word to us during the journey; indeed, it would have been to little purpoſe if he had, as we certainly ſhould not have underſtood him: for, though my knowledge of the Spaniſh language is very ſuperficial, I generally underſtood what was ſpoken on common ſubjects; and the Spaniſh and Portugueſe, as written languages, bear a near affinity, yet, from the pert and quick manner in which the Portugueſe ſpeak, and the eternal repetition of *voſtra merced*, which, I apprehend, is applied in all converſations and on all occaſions, I may venture to ſay that I have not underſtood one word that has been ſpoken to me in the journey from Villa Real to Liſbon.

This

This fellow would not give himſelf the trouble to aſk for money; which no chaiſe-driver that I ever met with or heard of, either from pride or idleneſs, ever neglected to do.

It was impoſſible not to obſerve, in the towns that we have lately paſſed through, the difference between the women of Portugal and thoſe of Spain. The Portugueſe women are handſome in their perſons, ſmart in their dreſs, with fine eyes and teeth, and beautiful hair in the greateſt abundance: in their head-dreſs they mix ribbands and flowers with very good taſte; theſe, too, women of ordinary rank, as we were not in the way of ſeeing any other. In ſhort, it muſt be allowed, that there are

finer

finer women and better mules in Portugal than in Andaluſia.

Yeſterday we croſſed the Tagus in a paſſage-boat. The port of Liſbon appeared to be full of ſhips; and, from its proximity to the ſea, muſt derive great advantages.

The city makes a ſplendid appearance, when viewed from the river; and, on the oppoſite ſide, are ſeen villages, country-houſes, and gardens full of trees, adorned with the luxuriant beauties of ſummer-foliage; amongſt theſe the orange-tree is conſpicuous.

The proſpect of theſe charming gardens muſt at any time have engaged

gaged the attention; but, at this ſeaſon of the year, and after a long journey, through nearly a continued deſert, it was peculiarly attractive.

We landed in the outſkirts of Liſbon at twelve o'clock; and, after a long and very dirty walk, came to Williams's Engliſh hotel at Buenos Ayres.

As we paſſed through the ſtreets, we witneſſed an accident, which brought to our recollection the proceſſion of the hoſt, which we had not ſeen ſince we left Arcos.

A well-dreſſed Portugueſe, on horſeback, as the proceſſion approached him, jumped from his horſe with

alacrity, and fell on his knees, in a very dirty part of the ſtreet. The horſe, being ſpirited, took fright at the ſound of the trumpet; and, his hand being engaged with the bridle, dragged the Fidalgo through the mud, until his cloaths were in a ſad condition.

In this Engliſh hotel is an ordinary, frequented by ſtrangers of the beſt rank. Here we took our dinner yeſterday, with a large party, chiefly Engliſh and French. The dinner was very good, and particularly the beef was the beſt that I have taſted; there was no want of good claret, and various other wines. You muſt allow me to mention the dinner of this day, as it is a ſort of adventure

to

to which I have not lately been accuſtomed.

This houſe ſtands on a hill which overlooks the Tagus and the ſhips in the harbour. From the management of the houſe, the ſervants, who are all Engliſh, the cookery, and other circumſtances, which exactly reſemble thoſe of an inn of the ſuperior order in England, a perſon might be eaſily induced to forget that he is in Portugal, and believe himſelf in a much better country.

We have not yet thought of the voyage to England. Ten days or a fortnight's good living will be abſolutely neceſſary to recruit the ſpirit that has been exhauſted during the journey.

journey. In that time you ſhall have my opinion of Liſbon; and, as far as I may be able to judge, of its inhabitants.

My reſpects wait on my friends; and I am always, moſt ſincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

DEAR SIR, Liſbon, December, 1780.

THERE are few cities that have ſo many advantages to boaſt in point of ſituation as Liſbon. Seated on the banks of the noble river Tagus, ſhips are brought cloſe to the wharfs, and their cargoes delivered into the warehouſes with very little labour and expence. Nature ſeems to have intended it to be the general mart of Europe.

The climate is temperate and healthy. The country about it produces corn, wine, and oil; and the fruits,

both of the old world and the new, are cultivated in the greateſt perfection and abundance. But, as the good things of this world are ſeldom found unmixed with evil, the baneful effects of the earthquake that happened in the year 1755 muſt ever be remembered with apprehenſion whilſt you are on the ſpot; indeed, there yet remain ſo many marks of that dreadful phænomenon, that you can go through no part of the city without its being brought to your recollection. Immenſe heaps of rubbiſh are every where ſeen, the remains of buildings that were deſtroyed in that day of almoſt univerſal deſolation to Liſbon. Theſe add to the diſadvantages of the natural in-

inequality of the ground on which the city was built; ſo that you are always going either up or down hills. The ſtreets are not paved, and the ſoil being clay, the duſt in Summer, and the mud in Winter, render it extremely unpleaſant to walking people; calaſhes are for that reaſon generally uſed; one of theſe, with the two mules and a driver, may be hired for about ſeven ſhillings a day, and is always in attendance.

Many large buildings are begun, intended for magnificent churches, convents, and hoſpitals; but the progreſs ſeems to be ſlow. Indeed, there appears in thoſe that have had the ſuperintendance in rebuilding the city, an attention to ſhew rather than

convenience; and thence ariſes a want of houſes ſuited to the induſtrious and uſeful inhabitants of a trading city.

The moderate and equal temperature which Liſbon enjoys, from the advantages of its ſituation near the ſea, have rendered it famous for the reſtorative quality of its air; and patients, particularly in conſumptive caſes, are ſent by their phyſicians to this city from every part of Europe. Lodging-houſes and inns for the entertainment of ſtrangers are therefore frequent and good. The Engliſh houſe in which we are is particularly convenient, pleaſantly ſituated, and remarkable for its good entertainment.

The markets of Liſbon are well ſupplied with meat, particularly excellent beef, poultry, game, and fiſh in the greateſt abundance and variety. Yet, although I apprehend that theſe articles, and other neceſſaries, may be procured at a very moderate price, a perſon cannot manage to live at this hotel of Buenos Ayres for leſs than a guinea a day.

Excellent wines, in the greateſt variety, are found here, Port only excepted; this favourite beverage of the Engliſh nation has no honour in its own country. Theſe, however, form nearly the whole of our expence; for Liſbon is at preſent entirely without public entertainment. The rigid piety of the Queen has been

the occaſion of ſhutting up all places of amuſement; neither opera nor play are permitted, even at this feſtive ſeaſon. The balls given by the members of the Britiſh factory are all that can be found; theſe are once in a fortnight; and it happened on the evening of our arrival. Whether we ſhall continue inhabitants of Liſbon until the next entertainment of this kind takes place, is very doubtful.

The gentlemen of the Factory live in a very ſociable and pleaſant manner, and are particularly civil and hoſpitable to all ſtrangers that viſit this city.

But, though other amuſements are wanting, the churches are always open;

open; and, to thoſe that are connoiſſeurs in muſic and pictures, religious ceremonies and parade, will doubtleſs afford great ſatisfaction.

One exhibition I had almoſt forgot to mention; I mean, that of the Portugueſe ladies at their lattices: there they are almoſt ever to be ſeen; very handſome in their perſons; their very fine hair, elegantly mixed with flowers and feathers; apparently ſprightly, gay, and dreſſed for ſhow. Very different, indeed, are the modeſt apparel and unaſſuming manners of the females of Andaluſia. As no woman, above the meaneſt condition, ever is ſeen to walk in the ſtreets of this city, they muſt of neceſſity be much confined to their houſes; and

the Portugueſe huſbands are ſaid to be jealous in the extreme.

Captain M. and myſelf generally drive, in our calaſh, about the city, to ſee what may be worth obſervation. We have paid our reſpects to Mr. Walpole, the Britiſh Ambaſſador at this Court, who received us politely, and did us the honour to return our viſit in two days.

We have alſo waited on Sir John Hort, the Conſul General; and were treated by him with great civility and kindneſs. To Mr. Maine, the brother of Lord Newhaven, who is a Banker in this city, the Engliſh in general have the higheſt obligations; he behaved to them in the moſt friendly

friendly manner; and all that applied to him were entertained with hoſpitality, and ſupplied with money without heſitation. I had letters of credit to him; but thoſe that had not, received the ſame aſſiſtance.

The gentlemen of the Factory have their country-houſes amidſt the orange-gardens of Cintra, a pleaſant village on the oppoſite ſide of the Tagus. Here they retire from the fatigues of buſineſs, and enjoy, in honourable leiſure, the comforts of this enchanted ſpot, where even at this ſeaſon the vivid green and the golden fruit of the orange-tree every where abound. We are much inclined to viſit theſe retreats; but to make this excurſion we muſt give up all

all thoughts of going to England in the next packet; and this is a ſacrifice that I am very unwilling to make. There is nothing in Liſbon that can induce a wiſh to continue in it an hour, the good fare and excellent wine of the Engliſh hotel only excepted.

With the comfortable hope of again viſiting my friends on Britiſh ground, I remain,

Your very affectionate ſervant,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XXV.

DEAR SIR, Liſbon, December, 1780.

AS I have nothing to acquaint you with, relating to myſelf, I will endeavour, in this letter, to give you ſome account of this country, on which I have been thus accidentally thrown.

The little kingdom of Portugal is bounded on two ſides by the Spaniſh provinces; and on the other two by the Atlantic ocean: it is divided into ſix provinces; thoſe on the South are very thinly peopled; but, from the barrenneſs of the ſoil, through want of water, and neglect of cultivation, pro-

produce not corn ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants. The Northern provinces are more fertile, and the people more induſtrious.

This difference will ever be found between the inhabitants of a very hot country, and thoſe that have the good fortune to dwell in a temperate climate. In the diſtrict of Porto, particularly, the example and encouragement of the Britiſh Factory at Port, have been attended with ſingularly good effects; the appearance of the country, and manners of the inhabitants in the vicinity of that city improve daily; and an activity and ſpirit of induſtry prevail, unknown in any other province of Portugal.

The

The trade of this kingdom is very conſiderable: the chief of their ſtaple commodities are wine, fruit, and the bark of the cork-tree. They have alſo many olive plantations; but neither the oil nor fruit are exported in any conſiderable quantities; the oil, like that of Spain, being ſo badly managed as to render it rancid, and of little uſe in any country except their own. Their vineyards afford the moſt important articles of their trade: theſe conſiſt chiefly of the red and white wines of Oporto, which are produced in the Northern Provinces; the Liſbon and Calcavalla white wines, made in the province of Eſtremadura; the greateſt part of theſe in the neighbourhood of Liſbon. The wine of the more Southern provinces

is

is miſerably bad; and in quantity ſcarcely ſufficient to ſupply the wants of the inhabitants. Their vineyards alſo give conſiderable quantities of grapes and raiſins for exportation: their gardens, lemons, oranges, figs, almonds, and pomegranates. Their onions are the beſt in Europe, and make an uſeful article of trade. Liſbon hams are much eſteemed, and in great demand for exportation.

Great Britain is the beſt market for theſe articles of their produce; and, as there is little or no demand for the wines of Portugal in any other part of Europe, the advantages of trade are reciprocal between the countries; and they receive from Great Britain in return corn, cloth, tin, and va-

rious

rious articles of manufactures, adapted to their home conſumption, and that of their colonies.

The Portugueſe have but few trading veſſels; and, notwithſtanding the advantages that might be made of their preſent neutrality, take but little ſhare of their own carrying-trade. They have loſt great part of their former poſſeſſions in the New World, and ſeem to owe the preſervation of thoſe that are left to them rather to the moderation of their neighbours, than their own ſtrength; of theſe Goa on the Malabar coaſt in Aſia, and Braſil in South America, are the principal. From theſe ſettlements the Portugueſe receive large returns of bullion, and valuable

goods of various kinds, which are divided among the more induſtrious merchants and manufacturers of England and Holland.

The ſyſtem of government in this kingdom has been generally conſidered as weak and ill-conducted. The Marquis de Pombal, the miniſter of the late King, has been variouſly ſpoken of; ſome of his meaſures ſeem to have been bold and well-conceived; others, weak and ill-conducted: among the latter was an attempt to produce corn ſufficient for the ſupport of the inhabitants, by deſtroying a certain portion of the vine-lands, and applying them to the cultivation of wheat. As this meaſure was to be carried by force, and as every

every thing in this country becomes a job in the hands of its government, it very naturally happened, that the wine was loſt, and no corn gained; for the vineyards of the poor were torn up and deſtroyed, while thoſe of the opulent remained in their former ſtate.

As there are, doubtleſs, many thouſand acres of land in the waſtes of the province of Alentejo that might have been brought into the culture of wheat, if proper encouragement had been given, the advantages of the meaſure would have been experienced by the publick and the land-owners; but it would have coſt ſomething to the government in the firſt inſtance; and this is contrary to its principle—to take all, and give nothing.

This miniſter, during the laſt war, influenced by the enmity of Spain, and ſupported by the friendſhip of Great Britain, rouſed the country into a degree of exertion, of which its beſt friends believed it incapable. An attempt was made to reform the army, and to place it on a reſpectable line; for this purpoſe the Count de la Lippe Buckebourg, on officer in all reſpects qualified for ſuch an undertaking, was appointed to the chief command; and many Britiſh officers were induced to enter into the ſervice of Portugal, by the promiſes of preferment, which were liberally held out to them.

The expulſion of the Jeſuits, by the ſame Miniſter, was certainly a ſtrong

ſtrong meaſure in ſuch a country, and probably could not have been carried into effect, unleſs the people had been induced to conſent to it, from the conviction that they were actually concerned in the aſſaſſination of the King.

As the ſlight degree of education which theſe people received was entirely through the means of the Jeſuits, and the only uſeful knowledge in the country was in their hands, it is generally conſidered that this event has been productive of more evil than good to the kingdom in general.

The Marquis alſo reſtrained the power of the Inquiſition, and endea-

voured to bring their tyranny within moderate bounds; but, ſince the commencement of the preſent reign, every thing has reverted to its former ſtate; the nation ſeems to have been rendered weaker by the efforts it made at that time.

The attempt to reform the army has entirely failed. Nearly all the Foreign Officers have left the ſervice with diſguſt. The regiments are without clothes or pay; in ſhort, as bad, or, if poſſible, worſe than they were before. You will not be ſurprized at this, when I aſſure you, that I have heard the following ſtory aſſerted on good authority.

The commiſſion of a Field Officer in one of theſe regiments being va-

cant, it was applied for by thoſe officers whoſe merit and date of ſervice gave them a right of pretenſion to ſucceed to it; but, after a conſiderable ſpace of time had elapſed, it was diſpoſed of in favour of a Saint who had been dead a thouſand years, or more probably had never lived at all, and the emoluments of the appointment went to his Convent.

Indeed, the ſtate of the military is conſidered of little conſequence, as their Moſt Faithful Majeſties, it is ſaid, have declared their intention of reſigning the government of the kingdom, rather than enter into a war. This declaration, if ſuch has been made, ſeems a very improbable method to avoid it, which, in the pre-

ſent ſtate of European politicks, can only be done by being prepared to meet it.

The Inquiſition has not only recovered its former power, but is in all things omnipotent. Their preſent Majeſties, indeed, are ſo much given to piety, that there is no road to preferment but by the influence of the Church; their whole confidence is placed in things above; they and their miniſters are continually employed in their attendance on maſſes and religious proceſſions; all other objects are overlooked or forgotten. The Queen attends the baptiſm of all proſelytes; and the converts from every other religion are liberally rewarded.

The

The Navy of Portugal is nearly in the ſame condition as their Army. It muſt be allowed, that nothing can preſerve the independence of Portugal, as a kingdom, for a month, except the torpid ſtate of the Spaniſh government. In extent of dominion, and numbers of people, the Spaniards poſſeſs a manifeſt ſuperiority; in military ſpirit and activity, it is difficult to determine on which ſide is the advantage.

The Portugueſe are very reſerved in their manner of living; they pay no attention to ſtrangers; and, as far as poſſibly they can do it, avoid all intercourſe with them.

There are very few of the nobility or gentry whoſe fortunes will ſupport

a moderate eſtabliſhment; and, as they affect to have a great number of ſervants and dependants, they are, of conſequence, generally poor.

The Portugueſe males are undoubtedly the worſt-looking race in Europe; well may they conſider the appellation of *ombre blanco*, "white man," as an honourable diſtinction. They proceed from a mixture of Jews, Moors, Negroes, and French, and ſeem, from their appearance and qualities, to have reſerved to themſelves the worſt parts of each of theſe people. Like the Jews, they are mean, tricking, and avaricious: from the Moors, they are jealous, cruel, and revengeful; as the people of colour, they are ſervile, indocile, and deceitful;

deceitful; and they reſemble the French in vanity, grimace, and gaſconade.

In the new world they have practiſed the ſame mixing ſyſtem; and a mongrel race, retaining the Portugueſe name, and a dialect of the language, have overſpread the land, and are the vagabonds and outcaſts of Aſia.

The women ſeem to have gained by theſe adventitious connexions what the men have loſt; they are in general very handſome, lively, and gay.

The men are notoriouſly jealous; and, if there can be an excuſe for this paſſion, it muſt be where the women

are

are amiable, and the men ſo much the contrary: hence ariſe private murders and aſſaſſinations.

It is by no means the method of the Portugueſe to call on the perſon that he thinks has injured him for ſatisfaction; the ſafer method of hiring the Bravo is generally adopted. And this trade will certainly thrive, as the Queen has lately thought proper, in her zeal for Religion, to pardon ſeveral murderers of the moſt atrocious ſort.

As you will be probably of my opinion, that a long continuance at Liſbon is in no reſpect to be deſired, ſo you will not be ſurprized that we have reſolved to re-viſit England by

the firſt opportunity: we ſhall therefore take our paſſage in the Hampden packet, which will probably ſail for Falmouth in the courſe of ten days. In arranging this buſineſs, we have had a ſlight diſpute with the agent for the Engliſh packets at this place. It is a cuſtom to charge to each paſſenger who engages a paſſage the ſum of four guineas, in addition to the price which is paid to the maſter of the packet. This is called the King's tax. In the particular ſituation in which we ſtood, we have objected to the payment of this money, not only on our own account, but that we may not eſtabliſh an evil precedent, that may affect Britiſh officers under ſimilar circumſtances in future. As the agent did not ſeem in-

inclined to give up the point in diſpute, the matter was referred to Sir John Hort. Sir John was of opinion, that, if we choſe to claim this exemption as diſtreſſed Britiſh ſubjects, there would be no objection. We, however, declined to avail ourſelves of this indulgence; and, ſtill perſiſting to claim the right of being exempted from this payment, the matter was at length given up to us. The price of the paſſage to Falmouth, excluſive of this ſum, is ten guineas; and the maſter of the packet provides a table and wine, tea, bed, and every other neceſſary article. We ſhall probably have more paſſengers on board the Hampden than may conduce to our convenience, as this is the firſt opportunity that has offered ſince we came here.

Having

Having thus engaged for a paſſage, and taken leave of our meſs-mates that ſtay behind, we ſhall quit Liſbon not unwillingly.

My next letter will, I truſt, be from Falmouth. In the mean time, wherever be my lot, believe me, always moſt ſincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

LETTER XXVI.

DEAR SIR, Falmouth, January, 1781.

I HAVE again the pleaſure of writing to you from Britiſh ground.

We arrived here yeſterday, after a tolerable voyage, the ſeaſon of the year conſidered; the occurrences of which are ſcarcely worth the recital; but, as it is your deſire, I ſhall continue my letters, with the account of it.

We received the ſummons to embark, on board the Hampden packet, early in the morning of the

January,

January, and ſailed from the Tagus about noon.

The vicinity of the harbour of Liſbon to the ſea gives great advantages to the trade, as ſhips may get out of the river with any wind. There were eighteen paſſengers; rather too many for the ſize and accommodations of the ſhip: theſe were chiefly military men, on their return from Spain, who had been involved in the ſame unlucky expedition. We had ſoon the mortification to find, that the ſhip was very leaky, and required the continual exerciſe of the pumps to keep her free. The maſter, as an apology, told us, that ſhe ought o have been put into dock before ſhe made the voyage; but the urgency

urgency of the ſervice would not admit of it: he alſo aſſured us, as ſome conſolation, that the leak would not increaſe; for this, indeed, we had no ſecurity, except his aſſertion; and, as that was the beſt that could be had in the preſent caſe, it was our intereſt to be ſatisfied with it.

The Eaſterly winds prevail ſo much in theſe latitudes, that the packets put to ſea immediately on receiving their orders, and generally with adverſe winds; and are often obliged to run an hundred leagues to the weſtward, as the ſailors term it, to look for a wind. This happened to us; and we were near the Weſtern iſlands when we met with the deſired breeze. From thence we jogged on about

about ten days, by the impulſe of the weſterly wind, eating, drinking, and playing cards, according to the uſual method of paſſengers on ſuch occaſions.

Two good tables were kept, one in the cabin, the other in the ſteerage; ſo that if, from caprice, or any other reaſon, you diſliked the company in one place, there was an opportunity of changing to the other.

Nothing unpleaſant occurred, except, what we could neither avoid nor remedy, the leaky ſtate of the ſhip, and the continual noiſe of the pumps, a ſound very ungrateful to the landman's ear. A military gentleman on board had frequently uſed

to make enquiry of the ſeamen, relative to the ſtate of the ſhip and the pumps. Now, as truebred ſeamen are of opinion that paſſengers have no right to feel at all for themſelves on theſe occaſions, their queſtions are generally treated with the utmoſt contempt. It happened that this gentleman, hearing a more than uſual buſtle on the deck, left his apartment, ſome time after midnight, either from apprehenſion or curioſity, to make his uſual enquiries; when one of the mates informed him, that the pumps were choaked, and that no hopes remained of preſerving the lives of the people on board but the ſpeedy falling-in with ſome veſſel, of which there was at preſent no great probability: the gentleman left the deck,

deck, and retired to his bed in the laſt deſpair; and he was not eaſily convinced, as the day advanced, and the ſtory was known, that his apprehenſions were groundleſs.

On the eleventh day of the voyage, early in the morning, a ſail was diſcovered far aſtern of the ſhip. This called the attention of every perſon on board, and, by the aſſiſtance of glaſſes, and the proverbial acuteneſs of a ſeaman's eye, it was aſcertained to be a French frigate, and every part of her deſcribed with minute exactneſs, when, by the utmoſt exertion of the viſual ray, I could ſcarcely diſcern her, a ſpot on the horizon.

All was now buſtle and uproar wild; every ſail was ſet that could be rendered uſeful to aſſiſt in our eſcape and every manœuvre tried to baffle the purſuit. At firſt we ſeemed tolerably ſecure in the faſt ſailing of our ſhip; and, indeed, I have ſeldom met with a maſter of a veſſel that was not fully perſuaded that his was the faſteſt ſailer of the deſcription to which ſhe belonged.

Notwithſtanding the ſea axiom, "that a ſtern chace is a long chace," it ſoon became evident that the ſhip by which we were followed outſailed us; and, by the middle of the day, it was thought neceſſary to make preparations for the worſt that might befal us: the maſter diſtributed his money

money and bank-notes amongſt his paſſengers, hoping that more delicacy would be uſed in the article of plunder towards them, than he himſelf might probably expect to meet with; for my own part, I had laid out my beſt coat to put on, it being the uſual policy on theſe occaſions to ſecure on your back the beſt part of your wardrobe.

The evening now approached, and, as there appeared no probability of eſcape, it was judged prudent to ſhorten ſail, and ſuffer the ſhip that chaſed us to come up, to avoid the dangerous and diſagreeable circumſtances to which we muſt certainly have been expoſed, on being boarded by an enemy in the night. Whilſt preparations

preparations were made for this purpoſe the man at the maſt head called out, that there was a fleet in ſight to windward, and that a ſhip of war had left them and ſtood towards us: this gave us new hopes; every ſail was again ſet, to carry us towards the ſhip that approached to our aſſiſtance; ſhe bore down very faſt, and ſoon diſcovered that the chaſing ſhip was a friend. A boat ſoon after came along-ſide from The Surprize frigate, Captain Reeves, and put a Lieutenant on board, who brought us the firſt news of the war with Holland; and removed all our apprehenſions of being taken.

We had again an inſtance of the pre-eminence of a ſeaman's viſion. One

One of the men that came in the man of war's boat had declared our ſhip to be the Hampden, from the firſt time he ſaw her in the morning.

The Pandora was the ſhip that had ſo bravely advanced to our aſſiſtance; ſhe had the care of a convoy from Ireland; and, when ſhe was convinced of our ſafety, purſued her voyage.

The attention of every perſon onboard had been too much engaged on this day to think of dinner, until the danger was at an end. We then ſat down; and, as all felt pleaſure from the eſcape of the day, a more liberal uſe of wine took place than had generally been the cuſtom.

It was between ten and eleven o'clock when I left the table to take a walk on the deck. The night was moderate and pleaſant. On looking round I thought that I ſaw ſome lights a-head. As there was no perſon on deck but the man at the helm, I pointed them out to him: but he had ſhared in the general joy, and either could not, or would not, ſee them. As the Scilly Iſlands could not be at a great diſtance from us, I was more particular in my obſervation, and was ſoon convinced that theſe were really the Scilly lights. The Maſter was not to be found: fortunately Captain R. of the Eaſt India Company's ſervice, was a paſſenger with us, on his return to England from Spain; he was called,

and

and recognized the lights; we gave them a proper diſtance, and all was well.

As, during the chace, the uſual methods of aſcertaining the diſtance the ſhip runs cannot be obſerved, it was imagined, that we had gone farther into St. George's Channel, and that the diſtance from Scilly was greater than it was really found to be; thus it is probable that we eſcaped ſome danger by my walk on the deck.

The ſhip came into the harbour about noon; and I ſoon after landed at this place, happy to reviſit the hoſpitable coaſt of Cornwall; and ſincerely thankful to Providence, that I had, in the ſhort ſpace of five months,

paſſed through many various ſcenes; to which, in general, the moſt unpleaſant, and not unfrequently dangerous, circumſtances are attached, with ſo light a portion of either, that it appears, on retroſpection, rather to have been a voyage and journey of pleaſure, than an expedition marked by ill ſucceſs and captivity. We ſhall ſtay here a day or two to recover the fatigue of the voyage.

Falmouth is not an unpleaſant town; and its inhabitants are civil and hoſpitable to ſtrangers. Some years ſince it had a conſiderable trade, particularly in the exportation of pilchards to the Spaniſh ports, both in and out of the Mediterranean; but the preſent war has been fatal to it; and

and the chief part of its conſequence, at preſent, is a very excellent harbour, and that it is the ſtation of the Liſbon, Weſt India, and American packets. The Maſters and Officers of which, and their families, form a conſiderable part of the inhabitants. The antient caſtle of Pendennis is about two miles from it, very pleaſantly ſituated, with an open view of the ſea. Some companies of Invalids form its garriſon, and a Regiment of Infantry is generally quartered in the town of Falmouth. There has alſo been a ſmall encampment formed near Pendennis.

As you are not acquainted with this part of the kingdom, and I mean to give our friend, Captain M. a ſight of

of the mines, and of any thing elſe that may be thought worthy of obſervation, I ſhall again write to you from Exeter; and, for the preſent, cloſe this correſpondence, in the hope of ſoon after meeting you in good health; being always,

Yours, moſt ſincerely,

R. C.

THE END.

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